



**SYDNEY
FILM
FESTIVAL**

**3-14
JUNE
2026**



**YOU'LL
SFF**



WELCOME

NASHEN MOODLEY

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

We want to invite you to join us at SFF this year, where each moment offers an opportunity for discovery and empathy.

While programming the 2026 Festival, we kept returning to a question: what role do film festivals play at a time like this – when the world is at war, people are brutalised by their own governments or cynically attacked by greater powers, and uncertainty can feel ever-present?

But our answer is that art and cinema help us make sense of the world, take us into the lives of people so far away from us, and sometimes instruct us on how – and why – to remain vigilant about our own rights and freedoms. Experiencing these films together in the cinema remains a vital and potentially life-changing experience. And we can't forget – they're also an enormous source of joy.

This is an invitation to feel connected; to ideas that storytellers from all over the world want you to hear, and to the people sitting beside you in the cinema. Stories felt together feel bigger.



“EXPERIENCING THESE FILMS TOGETHER IN THE CINEMA REMAINS A VITAL AND POTENTIALLY LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE.”

— NASHEN MOODLEY, FESTIVAL DIRECTOR



DARREN DALE

FESTIVAL CHAIR

Welcome to the 2026 Sydney Film Festival.

Each year, the Festival brings us together in cinemas to share stories that illuminate other lives. Across languages, cultures, and perspectives, cinema invites us to see the world – and each other – with renewed attention, empathy, and imagination, particularly in moments of uncertainty and division.

As Chair, I'm delighted to welcome you to a program that engages with the present while reaffirming why storytelling matters. These films do more than entertain – they create space for complexity, provoke reflection, and deepen our sense of connection. From distinctive new voices to filmmakers of international renown, the program reflects a belief in artistic risk, creative integrity, and cinema's unique ability to bring us together.

To share a film with an audience is to feel its impact multiply – stories resonate more deeply, and our connection to one another becomes more immediate.

Sydney audiences make this Festival what it is.

Thank you for joining us – and for sustaining the shared experience at the heart of this Festival.



FRANCES WALLACE

FESTIVAL CEO

SFF73 is here – and You'll See a Festival beyond your wildest imagination!

It's such an honour to be presenting SFF73, alongside the extraordinary Nashen, Darren, Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and our extended community of film enthusiasts.

SFF is going from strength to strength – building our audience year-on-year, now by 49% in the last 3 years and attracting a younger, more diverse audience. Across the globe film festivals are attempting to achieve this – SFF is doing it in spades.

A big thank you to all our supporters, we could not produce a Festival of this global standard if not for the generous support of government, donors, partners, and every single ticket buyer. We applaud you all.

Join us over the 12 days, you won't want to miss a beat – bring a friend, rush from cinema to cinema, on your own journey of delight and discovery, as you expand your mind. SFF73 You'll See.



THE HON. JOHN GRAHAM MLC

MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

Welcome back to the Sydney Film Festival.

This Festival keeps winning the war against the couch and getting people back to the cinema.

That's due to the Festival's dedication to searching the world for the most mesmerising stories and then bringing them home.

There's nothing like stepping away from the noise of your day-to-day life and immersing yourself into the cinematic wonder of a film you've never seen before.

NSW is the nation's leading hub for screen production, the government is backing it for more growth, and this Festival is a reminder of why we do it.

Enjoy the Festival.



CLOVER MOORE

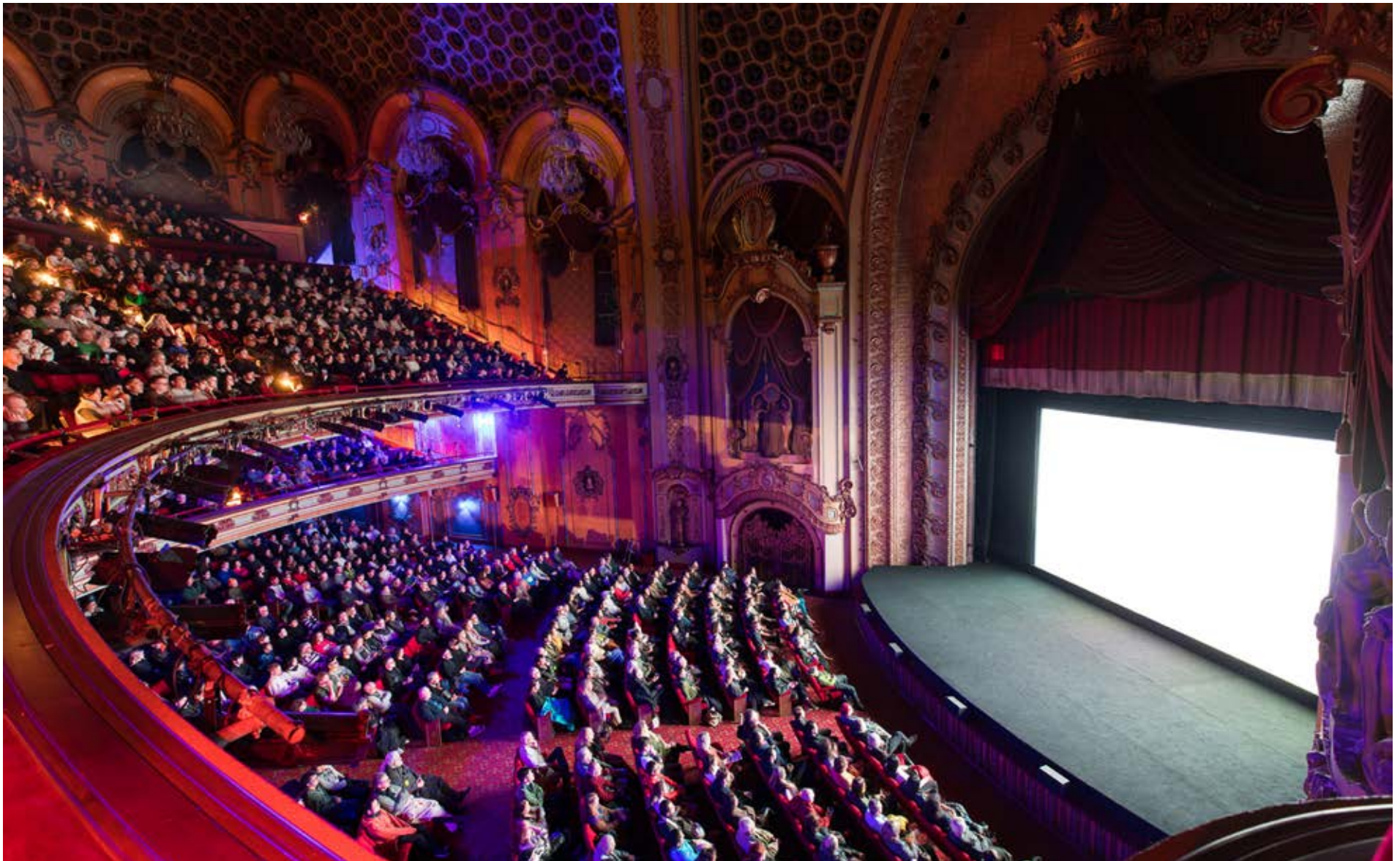
LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY

The Sydney Film Festival once again brings the best of local and international storytelling to our big screens.

From the Festival Hub at Sydney Town Hall to screenings at Sydney Opera House and Martin Place, the excitement of going to the movies will take over our city for 12 wonderful days.

It's not just the extra buzz that makes SFF such an important fixture on our cultural calendar. Film has the power to inspire and delight, inviting us to engage with new ideas and interpret the world around us – essential in increasingly complex and fast-moving times.

The City of Sydney is proud to support this iconic event. See you at the cinema!



YOU'LL SEE...

**SYDNEY
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VISIT SFF.ORG.AU FOR TICKETS, PROGRAM INFORMATION AND MORE

JOIN THE CONVERSATION AND STAY UP TO DATE ON EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sydney Film Festival

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youtube.com/sydfilmfest

sff.org.au



We acknowledge Australia's First Nations People as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land, and pay respect to the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, upon whose Country SFF offices are based. We honour the storytelling and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia.



OPENING NIGHT

SILENCED

WED 3 JUN 7:00 PM STATE

UNCLASSIFIED 15+

Australia, UK | 2026 | 97 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Selina Miles | Producer: Blayke Hoffman | Australian Distributor: Sharmill Films

This post #MeToo documentary reveals how defamation laws are weaponised to silence survivors. Featuring human rights lawyer Jennifer Robinson, Amber Heard and Brittany Higgins.

In this eye-opening documentary, courtroom footage and behind-the-headlines interviews reveal how the legal system is being used to victimize, discredit and financially ruin survivors, and journalists reporting on their stories. From Amber Heard at London's Law Courts to journalist Catalina Ruiz-Navarro in Colombia, and Brittany Higgins' experience in our own backyard, women globally face a new kind of silencing at the hands of perpetrators of sexual violence. It's a legal backlash Australian Jennifer Robinson is committed to fighting, inspired by her courageous grandmother who was also a survivor. With unrivalled access, director Selina Miles (*Martha: A Picture Story*, SFF 2019) challenges the flaws in the justice system that make this silencing possible, while simultaneously revealing the personal cost to those who speak up. A Sundance World Premiere.

OTHER SCREENINGS:

SAT 6 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ1

SAT 13 JUN 2:00 PM PNORT3



Selina Miles is an Australian director with a global reputation. Selina's debut film, *Martha: A Picture Story* won numerous awards including the Audience Award at Sydney Film Festival. Selina's second documentary, *Harley & Katya* won an International Emmy Award.

Opening Night Sponsors:



Mt Yengo
Wines

It's the year's biggest celebration of cinema – the **Opening Night Gala** will take you down the red carpet at the magnificent State Theatre, into a premiere screening of the searing new Australian documentary *Silenced*, and onto the Sydney Town Hall to revel at the official afterparty.

The Festival is the ultimate meeting point for filmmakers and audiences, and this special event will see both celebrate their shared passion for cinema from Australia and around the world. Drinks, canapés and entertainment will be provided for all afterparty attendees to kick off 12 days of extraordinary cinema. This is not to be missed.

Tickets are limited. Secure yours now to be part of this unforgettable evening.

Afterparty is strictly 18+

OPENING NIGHT (FILM + AFTERPARTY) _____ \$180

OPENING NIGHT (FILM ONLY) _____ \$60

OPENING NIGHT CONCESSION (FILM ONLY) _____ \$55



Official afterparty at Sydney Town Hall

CLOSING NIGHT & AWARDS CEREMONY

Bid farewell to the 73rd Sydney Film Festival at Closing Night, hosted by comedienne Nina Oyama at the State Theatre. Find out which films take out SFF's top prizes at our awards ceremony, then enjoy a screening of a highly anticipated film – still to be announced!

Book early as tickets are limited!

CLOSING NIGHT SUN 14 JUNE **\$50**

CLOSING NIGHT CONCESSION **\$45**



Jafar Panahi accepting the 2025 Sydney Film Prize for *It Was Just an Accident*

FESTIVAL AWARDS

THE OFFICIAL COMPETITION AND SYDNEY FILM PRIZE

A prize awarded to an "audacious, cutting-edge and courageous" film in the Official Competition. Endorsed by FIAPF, the regulating body for international film festivals, this prize is judged by a jury of filmmakers and industry professionals from Australia and abroad, with \$60,000 going to the winning filmmaker.

DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA AWARD

Supported by Documentary Australia, this prize acknowledges excellence in Australian documentary production. As well as receiving a \$20,000 cash prize, the winning film becomes Academy Award eligible.



SUSTAINABLE FUTURE AWARD

The Sustainable Future Award, with a cash prize of \$40,000, is the largest environmental film prize in the world. It is made possible through philanthropic support from Amanda Maple-Brown. The Award recognises a narrative or documentary film of any length that deepens our knowledge and awareness of the impact of the global climate emergency.

Films shortlisted for the Sustainable Future Award.



FIRST NATIONS AWARD

The First Nations Award is proudly supported by Truant Pictures with a \$35,000 cash prize – the largest in the world for Indigenous filmmaking. Open to First Nations filmmakers from across the globe, the First Nations Award celebrates the profound contributions of First Nations filmmakers to the cinematic landscape. All films, including short films, featured within the Festival's First Nations program automatically qualify for consideration for the Award.



2026 SYDNEY UNESCO CITY OF FILM AWARD

This annual award recognises a trailblazing NSW-based screen practitioner whose work stands for innovation, imagination and impact. Screen NSW awards a \$10,000 cash prize to the winner.



DINOSAUR DESIGNS

All Sydney Film Festival Award winners are presented with the Festival's signature mesmeric swirl award, designed and handmade in Sydney by SFF's partners Louise Olsen and Stephen Ormandy of Dinosaur Designs.



OFFICIAL JURY PARTNER

PARKROYAL Darling Harbour, Sydney is proud to be the official home away from home for SFF's Awards Juries.



As well as showcasing the world's best films, Sydney Film Festival supports and celebrates their makers, both emerging and established, through the presentation of 10 prestigious awards. In 2026, the total prize pool is \$200,000 going directly to filmmakers.

Distributed by independent juries, SFF's awards have provided filmmakers with career momentum for decades.

Festivalgoers are also invited to vote in the GIO Audience Awards to go into the draw for fabulous prizes (see Vote & Win below).

DENDY AWARDS FOR AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILMS

SFF's prestigious Australian Short Film Awards were established in 1970 and have been sponsored by Dendy Cinemas since 1989. Awards will be presented at The Hub on June 13 (see page 14).

- The Dendy Live Action Short Award, sponsored by Dendy Cinemas, provides a \$7,000 cash prize to the best Australian short film. Winners are Academy Award eligible.
- The Rouben Mamoulian Award, sponsored by Dendy Cinemas and named after the director who first presented the award in 1974, provides a \$7,000 cash prize to the best director of an Australian short film.
- The Yoram Gross Animation Award, sponsored by Sandra and Guy Gross in memory of the late Yoram Gross, provides a \$7,000 cash prize to the best Australian animated short film. Winners are Academy Award eligible.



- The AFTRS Craft Award, sponsored by the Australian Film Television and Radio School, provides a \$7,000 cash prize for demonstrated excellence by a craft practitioner in an Australian short film.



- The Event Cinemas Rising Talent Award recognises an emerging short screenwriter with a cash prize of \$7,000. Open to screenwriters who have had no more than five short film credits.



VOTE & WIN!

GIO AUDIENCE AWARDS

Have your say! Rate all your feature-length Festival faves.

Vote for the chance to win your own private screening of an Audience Award-winning film for 50 people, courtesy of GIO.

Fantastic daily prizes and offers are also up for grabs from MUBI and SFF cinema and restaurant partners.

The GIO Audience Awards for Best International Narrative Feature, Best International Documentary, Best Australian Narrative Feature and Best Australian Documentary are announced after the Festival.



HOW TO VOTE

Visit sff.org.au/vote and use the code at the bottom of your ticket to rate each film out of a possible 10 stars.

Or log in to the official **SFF 2026 App** and go to 'My Tickets' to select a title and rate it out of 10 stars.

You can only vote once per ticket (full details on our website). Voting closes midnight 14 June 2026. Terms and conditions apply.

GET THE SFF 2026 APP





You'll see audacious, cutting-edge, and courageous films in the 2026 Official Competition as we celebrate 18 years of the prestigious Sydney Film Prize – with \$60,000 to be awarded to the winning filmmaker.

Sydney Film Prize winners to date: *It Was Just an Accident* (2025), *There's Still Tomorrow* (2024), *The Mother of All Lies* (2023), *Close* (2022), *There Is No Evil* (2021), *Parasite* (2019), *The Heiresses* (2018), *On Body and Soul* (2017), *Aquarius* (2016), *Arabian Nights* (2015), *Two Days, One Night* (2014), *Only God Forgives* (2013), *Alps* (2012), *A Separation* (2011), *Heartbeats* (2010), *Bronson* (2009), and *Hunger* (2008).

OFFICIAL COMPETITION



BEN'IMANA



THU 11 JUN 6:00 PM STATE
FRI 12 JUN 9:45 AM STATE

SAT 13 JUN 4:15 PM DNT1

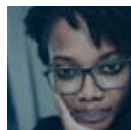
15+

Rwanda, Gabon, France, Norway, Qatar | 2026 | 100 mins | In Kinyarwanda with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Marie-Clémentine Dusabejamba | Screenwriters: Marie-Clémentine Dusabejamba, Delphine Agut | Producers: Samantha Biffot, Marie Epiphane Uwayezu, Pierre-Adrien Ceccaldi, Marie-Clémentine Dusabejamba | Cast: Isabelle Kabano, Clémentine U. Nyirinkindi, Kesia Kelly Nishimwe | Sales Agent: MK2 Films

Direct from Cannes Un Certain Regard, this emotionally powerful exploration of a reconciliation process following the Rwandan genocide is set to be one of the year's most acclaimed debuts.

Rwanda, 2012. For some, the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis is something best left in the past. But the repercussions of the violence are felt everyday by survivors who were targeted in the carnage. After years of silence, people's courts are being established, aimed at achieving both justice and reconciliation. Though there is a great deal of resistance, in the Kibeho district, survivor Veneranda (Clémentine U. Nyirinkindi, excellent) is committed to the process and even organises discussions between the families of victims and perpetrators – a vivid reminder that they still live side by side, just as they did prior to the genocide. These attempts at reconciliation are tense, as some characterise the genocidal violence as mere 'misbehaviour'. As one of the survivors pointedly says: "I'm tired of being asked to forgive all the time. As if I carry around a bag full of forgiveness." Into this febrile atmosphere, Veneranda receives the news that her teenaged daughter, Tina, a source of much pride and promise, is pregnant, and this forces her to confront her own past. Though tackling humanity at its worst, the extraordinary *Ben'Imana* ultimately shows a path forward to healing and peace.

Festival Guest: Marie-Clémentine Dusabejamba



Marie-Clémentine is a Rwandan filmmaker based in her hometown Kigali. After studying to become an engineer, she began making films in 2011. In 2016 her short *A Place for Myself* won the Ousmane Sembène Award and the Golden Dhow at Zanzibar International Film Festival. Her debut feature is the very first by a Rwandan director to be selected for the Cannes Official Selection.

DAO



MON 8 JUN 4:00 PM STATE
TUE 9 JUN 12:20 PM STATE

SAT 13 JUN 10:30 AM SLNSW

15+

France, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal | 2026 | 185 mins | In French, Creole and Wolof with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Alain Gomis | Producers: Sylvie Pialat, Benoît Quainon, Christophe Barral, Toufik Ayadi, Yoro Mbaye, Alain Gomis | Cast: Katy Correa, D'Johé Kouadio, Samir Guesmi | Sales Agent: The Party Film Sales

A swirling epic, *Dao* is a life-affirming journey into a wedding and memorial ceremony, across Guinea-Bissau and France, reality and fiction, and a world of love, sadness and joy.

Dao, we learn through a title card, "is a perpetual circular movement framing reality" and the film opens with documentary footage of members of the cast being auditioned. Director Alain Gomis (*Today*, SFF 2012; *Félicité*, SFF 2017) tells them: "You're going to be a real fake family" and as we follow this enthralling group, they seem not only like a real family but one easily identified with. Gloria (Katy Correa) travels from France to Guinea-Bissau to attend a commemorative ceremony for her late father, the revered patriarch of an extensive family. She's accompanied by her daughter Nour (D'Johé Kouadio), who's visiting her ancestral land and meeting some of her relatives for the first time. In France, in an alternate timeframe, the grand family gathering is Nour's elaborate wedding. Moving between these two celebrations, Gomis examines cultural identity and transmission, migration and the ties that bind families across generations and continents. With an entrancing soundtrack, including a recurring piece by the South African pianist Abdullah Ibrahim, *Dao* draws you in, through the rituals and customs – both African and European – that bring families together, until you feel utterly immersed.

Festival Guest: Alain Gomis



Alain Gomis made his feature debut in 2001 with *L'Afance*, winner of the Silver Leopard in Locarno. His second film *Andalucia* (2007) was selected in Venice, while *Today* (SFF 2012) and *Félicité* (SFF 2017) both appeared in the Berlinale Competition and won the Golden Stallion at FESPACO. In 2022 he made his first feature documentary, *Rewind & Play*. *Dao* was presented in the Berlinale Competition this year.

THE DREAMED ADVENTURE

DAS GETRÄUMTE ABENTEUER



SAT 13 JUN 5:00 PM STATE
SUN 14 JUN 9:30 AM STATE

15+

Germany, France, Bulgaria, Austria | 2026 | 162 mins | In Bulgarian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Valeska Grisebach | Producers: Jonas Dombach, Janine Jackowski, Maren Ade | Cast: Yana Radeva, Syuleyman Halil Letifov, Stoicho Kostadinov | Sales Agent: The Match Factory

Valeska Grisebach's (*Western*) Cannes Competition contender is a mysterious and intoxicating journey following a woman on a mission in the rough Bulgarian borderlands.

Said (Syuleyman Halil Letifov) arrives in a border town he left long ago, searching for a contact to conduct a deal. Shortly after his arrival his car is stolen, but he soon meets a woman, Veska (Yana Radeva), with whom he has a complex past. Together they head to Matochina where she is digging for 14th and 15th century artefacts. In this corner of the world – the border region between Bulgaria, Türkiye and Greece – law and order is minimal and local heavy, Iliya, runs the town with barely concealed menace. When Said disappears, Veska continues on his perilous adventure, forcing her to contend with her past and her desires. Much of the joy in Veska's pursuit is to be found in extended scenes of her sitting with groups of locals, eating, drinking and talking – about the past and the political history of the region that still affects them all. Like with her much admired *Western*, also set on the Bulgarian border, *The Dreamed Adventure* is constructed with impeccable precision by Grisebach and features stunning images by cinematographer Bernhard Keller. In telling this story of a daring quest, Grisebach offers an incisive potted history of a tumultuous region and its people.

Valeska Grisebach is a German filmmaker, who studied directing at the Film Academy Vienna under Michael Haneke. Her graduate film *Be My Star* (2001) received the FIPRESCI Critics' Award at Toronto. *Longing* (2006), her second feature, premiered in Competition at the Berlinale. Her third feature, *Western* (2017), premiered at Cannes in Un Certain Regard. She is considered part of the Berlin School.

FJORD



SAT 13 JUN 8:15 PM STATE
SUN 14 JUN 12:45 PM STATE

15+

Romania, France, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland | 2026 | 146 mins | In Norwegian, English and Romanian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Cristian Mungiu | Producers: Cristian Mungiu, Pascal Caucheteux, Vincent Maraval, Grégoire Sorlat, Dyveke Bjørkly Graver, Andrea Berentsen Ottmar, Adela Vrănceanu Cellidache, Sean Wheelan, Kristina Börjeson, Mimmi Spång, Marco Perego, Katrin Pors, Mikkel Jersin, Jussi Rantamäki, Emilia Haukka, Tudor Reu
Cast: Sebastian Stan, Renate Reinsve, Lisa Carlehed | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Internationally acclaimed director Cristian Mungiu returns with his English-language debut, a thought-provoking family drama starring Sebastian Stan and Renate Reinsve.

Romanian-Norwegian couple the Gheorghius, Mihai (a virtually unrecognisable Stan, *A Different Man*, SFF 2024) and Lisbet (Reinsve, *Sentimental Value*, SFF 2025), are devoutly Christian and relocate from Romania to a Norwegian village set in a fjord to be closer to Lisbet's family. Together with their five children, including an infant, they settle into their new environment and make friends with their neighbours. Their older daughter Elia, in particular, becomes close to rebellious teen Noora. When Elia turns up at school with some bruises on her body, it triggers an investigation into her parents and their conservative parenting methods, soon escalating into a full-blown crisis in the village and far beyond. Mungiu, who won the Cannes Palme d'Or for *4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days* in 2007, and prizes for *Beyond the Hills* (SFF 2013) and *Graduation* (SFF 2017), is masterful in posing searing moral questions, placing his characters in complex situations. With *Fjord*, a vehicle for incredible performances by Stan and Reinsve, he challenges the audience to contemplate the limits of secular contemporary societies in dealing with minorities and, as always, poses resonant ethical questions.



Cristian Mungiu is a leading voice of the Romanian New Wave. He won the Palme d'Or at Cannes for *4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days* (2007). His subsequent Cannes award-winning films include *Beyond the Hills* (SFF 2013), which won Best Screenplay and Best Actress (shared by Cristina Flutur and Cosmina Stratan), and *Graduation* (SFF 2017), which won Best Director.

FATHERLAND



FRI 12 JUN 6:00 PM STATE
SAT 13 JUN 9:30 AM STATE

SUN 14 JUN 3:50 PM RITZ1

15+

Poland, Germany, Italy, France | 2026 | 82 mins | In German, French, English and Russian with English subtitles
Australian Premiere

Director: Paweł Pawlikowski | Screenwriters: Paweł Pawlikowski, Henk Handloegten | Producers: Mario Gianani, Lorenzo Mieli, Ewa Puszczynska, Jeanne Tremsal, Edward Berger, Dimitri Rassam, Lorenzo Gangarossa | Cast: Sandra Hüller, Hanns Zischler, August Diehl | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Paweł Pawlikowski (*Ida; Cold War*, SFF 2018) returns with this sensational snapshot of writer Thomas Mann (Hanns Zischler) and his daughter Erika (Sandra Hüller) in post-war Germany. Cannes Competition.

It's 1949 and the Nobel Prize-winning writer, who left Germany with Hitler's rise in 1933, is returning to his homeland for the first time since the end of the war to receive the Goethe Prize. Accompanied by his loyal daughter Erika who takes care of all the trip logistics, Mann receives a warm welcome by the Mayor of Frankfurt. But threats also abound in the city, calling him "communist scum" and "traitor". The war might be over, but there is more than a hint of remaining fascism on the streets – and in the cocktail parties – of Frankfurt. There is criticism too that Mann chose to leave rather than stay and resist. As Mann and Erika make their way from US-dominated Frankfurt to Soviet-controlled Weimar (where a colonel wishes to discuss "Mephistopheles and dialectics" with Mann), their black Buick takes them through a Germany in ruins, and they must contend with a personal loss that builds within before finally landing with colossal strain. Pawlikowski, with luminous black and white images, explores the impact of the push and pull of politics on a single artist in telling a transcendent and profound story of family, guilt and love in a time of turmoil.



Paweł Pawlikowski is an Oscar-winning director whose lyrical films have earned widespread international acclaim. *Ida* (2013) won the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film, while *Cold War* (SFF 2018) earned him Best Director at Cannes and was nominated for three Oscars. Born in Warsaw, Poland, he studied literature and philosophy at Oxford University.

GENTLE MONSTER



SUN 7 JUN 7:30 PM STATE
MON 8 JUN 9:30 AM STATE

SUN 14 JUN 5:45 PM HOC4

18+

Austria, Germany, France | 2026 | 112 mins | In English, German and French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Marie Kreutzer | Producers: Alexander Glehr, Johanna Scherz | Cast: Léa Seydoux, Catherine Deneuve, Laurence Rupp | Sales Agent: MK2 Films

An incredible Léa Seydoux stars in *Corsage* director Marie Kreutzer's gripping, emotionally charged study of a wife and mother forced to confront the unthinkable. Cannes Competition.

Renowned concert pianist Lucy (Seydoux, *No Time to Die; Silent Friend*, SFF 2026) decides, as her husband Philip (Laurence Rupp, *Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation*) suffers more and more from burnout, to move the family to the countryside, at considerable financial cost. There, in a country house outside Munich, the couple and their young son settle into a calmer life. But the idyll is shattered when one morning, the police arrive at their door, confiscate Philip's electronic equipment and begin questioning him. Devastated, Lucy confronts the possibility that the man she loves and the father of her child, is not the person she thought he was. As Philip tries to preserve the marriage, Lucy seeks a way forward that protects her son and herself. Seydoux's towering performance is entrancing as we see her cycle through shock, devastation, anger and optimism. Through the film we see fragments of Lucy's phenomenal concert performances, featuring deconstructed reimaginings of pop songs – all written by men – and revealing of Lucy's dilemma in which she must take on the burden of responsibility for a man's actions. Directed with precision by Kreutzer, *Gentle Monster* is powerful, provocative and morally complex.



Marie Kreutzer is an Austrian filmmaker known for audacious character-driven studies that often interrogate the societal pressures placed on women. Having studied at the Film Academy Vienna, she found critical favour with her 2019 film *The Ground Beneath My Feet*. Her Cannes debut, *Corsage* – which starred Vicky Krieps – won the Un Certain Regard Best Performance Prize in 2022.

THE INVITE



FRI 5 JUN 8:30 PM STATE
SAT 6 JUN 11:15 AM STATE

THU 11 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ1

18+

USA | 2026 | 107 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director: Olivia Wilde | Screenwriters: Will McCormack, Rashida Jones | Producers: David Permut, Ben Browning, Megan Ellison | Cast: Seth Rogen, Olivia Wilde, Penélope Cruz, Edward Norton | Australian Distributor: VVS Films

Olivia Wilde, Seth Rogen, Penélope Cruz and Edward Norton exchange barbs, flirtations and truths in this hit Sundance dinner party dramedy, directed by Wilde (*Booksmart*, SFF 2019).

San Franciscan married couple Joe and Angela (Rogen and Wilde) are two tightly wound individuals who seem to be at odds over almost everything. When Angela invites their attractive, free-spirited upstairs neighbours (Cruz and Norton) over for dinner, the evening feels primed to combust. Where Angela is intrigued by the pair, Joe is irritated by the constant noise that travels from their bedroom above. The stage is set for a night of sizzling small talk, unearthed insecurities, loaded barbs and a serious dose of sexual tension. Shot on 35mm, with a sparkling script by writing duo Rashida Jones and Will McCormack (*Celeste and Jesse Forever*) that updates the 2020 Spanish film *The People Upstairs*, *The Invite* is a masterful dissection of modern relationships. As director, Wilde brings emotional depth and a comedic edge to the material, finding something recognisable and painfully true beneath the film's escalating chaos. Her process – workshoping scenes with the cast, shooting chronologically, and allowing room for exploration on set – gives the film a lived-in, volatile authenticity that lifts it beyond the familiar contours of the relationship drama.



Olivia Wilde is an actor, director and producer whose screen credits include *I Want Your Sex*, *Her*, *Drinking Buddies* and the upcoming *Behemoth!*. Her feature directorial debut, *Booksmart* (SFF 2019), premiered at SXSW and won multiple awards including the Independent Spirit Award for Best First Feature; she followed it with *Don't Worry Darling* (2022), which grossed over \$90 million globally.

MINOTAUR



FRI 12 JUN 8:00 PM STATE
SAT 13 JUN 11:15 AM STATE

SUN 14 JUN 5:45 PM RITZ1

15+

France, Germany, Latvia | 2026 | 138 mins | In Russian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Andrey Zvyagintsev | Screenwriters: Andrey Zvyagintsev, Simon Lyashenko | Producers: Nathanaël Karnitz, Charles Gillibert | Cast: Dmitriy Mazurov, Iris Lebedeva | Australian Distributor: Palace Films

The much-anticipated new film by Russian master Andrey Zvyagintsev is a brave, taut and explosive thriller that brilliantly melds the personal and the political. Direct from the Cannes Competition.

Russia 2022. Successful businessman Gleb (Dmitriy Mazurov) lives in a beautiful waterfront home with his wife Galina (Iris Lebedeva) and their young son. Though politically connected, Gleb is not immune from the radical changes in Russian society and finds himself under extreme pressure to quell panic and keep his company running. Galina meanwhile feels the constant pressure of having to be the perfect wife and mother. When he begins to suspect that Galina is having an affair, the usually considered Gleb makes a fateful decision that will threaten emotional and moral collapse. A Golden Lion winner at Venice for *The Return* (SFF 2004) and a frequent prize winner at Cannes, Zvyagintsev (*Leviathan*, *Loveless*, *Elena*) is the great cinematic chronicler of Russian society over the last two decades. Here, once again working with cinematographer Mikhail Krichman whose crisp imagery is as effective as ever, he offers a searing portrait of a family and a society in existential peril. At the height of his considerable powers, Zvyagintsev has characteristically made a film that's urgent, complex and provocative.



Andrey Zvyagintsev is an acclaimed, Academy Award-nominated Russian auteur. His debut *The Return* (SFF 2004) won the Golden Lion at Venice; *Leviathan* (2014) won Best Screenplay at Cannes and a Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film; and *Loveless* (2017) won the Jury Prize at Cannes, as well as the prestigious César Award for Best Foreign Film, a first for a Russian director.

LEVITICUS



SAT 6 JUN 6:30 PM STATE
SUN 7 JUN 11:30 AM STATE

MON 8 JUN 6:45 PM RITZ1

18+

Australia | 2026 | 86 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Adrian Chiarella | Producers: Samantha Jennings, Kristina Ceyton, Hannah Ngo | Cast: Joe Bird, Stacy Clausen, Mia Wasikowska | Australian Distributor: Maslow Entertainment

In this bold, breakout Sundance hit from Australian Adrian Chiarella, two teenage boys contend with an evil force that takes on the form of the person they desire most: each other.

In a sleepy regional Victorian town, teen boys Naim (Joe Bird, *Talk to Me*) and Ryan (Stacy Clausen) form a powerful attraction – a sin in their God-fearing, conservative Christian community. When their budding queer love is discovered, Naim and Ryan are subjected to a radical conversion therapy ritual by a mysterious 'healer' (Nicholas Hope, *Bad Boy Bubby*). A sinister supernatural entity is thereby released, targeting only the boys and taking the form of what they desire most: each other. The astonishingly clever feature debut of award-winning Australian writer-director Adrian Chiarella (*Dwarf Planet*, SFF Dendy Awards 2021), the film melds coming-of-age romance, supernatural queer horror and a touch of *It Follows* into its chilling curse narrative. The two young leads Bird and Clausen lend a believable chemistry and tenderness to their roles, making their eventual terror all the more palpable. From the producers of *Talk to Me*, and bolstered by impressive supporting turns from Mia Wasikowska and Ewen Leslie, *Leviticus* is an electrifying showcase for Australian screen talent, and a worthy new entry in the canon of homegrown horror.

Festival Guests: Adrian Chiarella and members of the film team



Adrian Chiarella is an award-winning Australian screenwriter and director, with previous short films including *Touch* (2014), *Black Lips* (2018) and *Dwarf Planet* (SFF Dendy Awards 2021). Previous TV credits include *Totally Completely Fine* (Stan), *Five Bedrooms* (Paramount+) and *Erotic Stories* (SBS). He is a graduate of the Australian Film Television and Radio School.

NO GOOD MEN



THU 4 JUN 6:00 PM STATE
FRI 5 JUN 12:30 PM STATE

SAT 6 JUN 3:45 PM DNT1

15+

Germany, France, Norway, Denmark, Afghanistan | 2026 | 103 mins | In Dari and Pashto with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Shahrbanoo Sadat | Producers: Katja Adomeit, Shahrbanoo Sadat, Marina Perales Marhuenda, Xavier Rocher, Ingvil Sæther Berger, Balthasar Busmann, Maxi Haslberger, Jeppe Wovk | Cast: Shahrbanoo Sadat, Anwar Hashimi, Liam Hussaini | Sales Agent: Lucky Number

In this sparkling political romantic comedy from Afghanistan, a camerawoman disillusioned with love is surprised to find herself drawn to the country's leading journalist.

Directed by and starring Shahrbanoo Sadat (*Wolf and Sheep*, SFF 2017), *No Good Men* is set in Kabul in the time leading up to the Taliban's return to power in 2021. In this period of great political uncertainty and peril, Naru (Sadat) the sole camerawoman at Kabul's main TV station must deal with a personal crisis. Having left her cheating, abusive husband, she struggles against the odds to gain custody of her young son. Add to that the sexism Naru endures in the workplace and in the course of her duties, it is little wonder she feels strongly that there are "no good men" left in Afghanistan. When she is diverted to a serious news story, rather than the 'female content' usually foisted upon her, she works with Qodrat (Anwar Hashimi), Kabul TV's top journalist. While their initial interactions are guarded, the two soon find in each other something alluring. But the backdrop is anything but romantic as the Taliban encroach, and it seems the window of freedom for journalists, women and civil society is about to be sharply shut. Adeptly playing with rom-com conventions, while conveying the sheer terror of a society on the brink of tumult, Sadat has made a film as daring as it is delightful.

Festival Guest: Anwar Hashimi



Shahrbanoo Sadat is an Afghan filmmaker based in Hamburg, Germany, since the fall of Kabul in 2021. She has been selected three times for Cannes Directors' Fortnight with her short film *Vice Versa One* in 2011, her debut feature *Wolf and Sheep* in 2016 (SFF 2017), and her second feature *The Orphanage* in 2019. *No Good Men* opened the Berlinale earlier this year.

PARALLEL TALES

HISTOIRES PARALLÈLES



WED 10 JUN 6:00 PM STATE
THU 11 JUN 11:25 AM STATE

FRI 12 JUN 6:00 PM RITZ1
SUN 14 JUN 3:00 PM HOC4

15+

France | 2025 | 139 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Asghar Farhadi | Screenwriters: Asghar Farhadi, Massoumeh Lahidji | Producers: Alexandre Mallet-Guy, Yousra Filali, Gaëtan David, Asghar Farhadi, David Levine, André Logie, Andrea Occhipinti | Cast: Isabelle Huppert, Virginie Efira, Vincent Cassel | Australian Distributor: Palace Films

Asghar Farhadi delivers a layered, complex drama about a writer using surveillance for inspiration, with an all-star French cast of Isabelle Huppert, Vincent Cassel, Virginie Efira, Pierre Niney and Catherine Deneuve. Cannes Competition.

Writer Sylvie (Huppert) is in need of a successful new novel and is on the search for inspiration. She is also being forced to vacate her Paris apartment. Desperate, she spies on her neighbours across the street using a telescope. There she observes brothers Nico (Cassel) and Theo (Pierre Niney) and their colleague Nita (Virginie Efira), who work in a sound studio. Their imagined lives and romantic situations initially provide promising material for Sylvie. But when she hires the mysterious young man Adam (Adam Bessa, *Ghost Trail*, SFF 2024) to assist her pack up the apartment, and shares with him her observational tactics and the resulting work, the line between fiction and reality begins to blur. Farhadi (winner of the Sydney Film Prize in 2011 for *A Separation*) is a master in conveying ambiguity and placing his characters in the grip of moral dilemmas. Here, in a film loosely based on Krzysztof Kieslowski's *Dekalog:Six*, he explores how surveillance and storytelling can have a deep impact on reality. Coming from the highly surveilled Iran, where Farhadi is no longer able to make films, *Parallel Tales* feels like his clarion call for the liberating power of the imagination.



Asghar Farhadi is an Oscar-winning Iranian director, renowned for his intricately layered moral dramas. His award-winning films include *About Elly* (SFF 2009), *A Separation* (SFF 2011 Sydney Film Prize winner), *The Past* (SFF 2013), *The Salesman* (2016), *Everybody Knows* (2018), and *A Hero* (SFF 2021). Born in Isfahan, Iran, he graduated with a Master's in directing from Tehran University.

SHAME AND MONEY



MON 8 JUN 8:00 PM STATE
TUE 9 JUN 9:45 AM STATE

THU 11 JUN 6:15 PM PNORT3

18+

Germany, Kosovo, Slovenia, Albania, North Macedonia, Belgium | 2026 | 129 mins | In Albanian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Visar Morina | Screenwriters: Visar Morina, Doruntina Basha | Producers: Fabian Altenried, Sophie Ahrens, Kristof Gerega, Pia Hellenenthal, Visar Morina | Cast: Astrit Kabashi, Flonja Kodheli, Kurnrije Hoxha | Production Company: Schuldenberg Films

Winner of the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize at Sundance, Visar Morina's deeply humane drama follows a Kosovar family who lose their livelihood and must rebuild from scratch.

Shaban (Astrit Kabashi, *Hive*, SFF 2021; *Zana*, SFF 2020) and his wife Hatixhe (Flonja Kodheli, *Sworn Virgin*, SFF 2015) are proud heads of a dairy farming family living in rural Kosovo. When the selfish act of a cash-strapped relative suddenly leaves them with no cows, and no way to make a living, they are forced to relocate with their three daughters to Pristina, the capital, in desperate search of work. They bunk temporarily in the flashy home of Hatixhe's sister and her well-off husband Alban, who offers Shaban and Hatixhe menial part-time labour as nightclub cleaners. This familial assistance comes, of course, with strings attached, and offers the family considerably more shame than it does salvation. With great precision and humanity, Morina (*Exile, Father*) follows the testing daily grind of a family trying to hold itself together under dire economic and personal circumstances. A searing, brilliantly performed drama, *Shame and Money* is a compassionate portrayal of the struggle to retain dignity and self-respect in conditions of dehumanising economic precarity that are far from unique to Kosovo, and could easily be replicated anywhere.



Visar Morina is a Kosovo-born filmmaker who studied directing at the Academy of Media Arts in Cologne, Germany. His features (*Exile* starring Sandra Hüller, 2020; *Father*, 2015) and shorts have screened at multiple festivals including the Berlinale, Sundance, Locarno and Karlovy Vary, winning major awards including the Golden Lola for Best Screenplay and the Heart of Sarajevo.

2026
OFFICIAL
COMPETITION JURY

Kleber Mendonça Filho



Ildikó Enyedi



Ari Wegner



Boo Junfeng



Sally Riley

The 2026 Official Competition jury will be presided over by Brazilian director Kleber Mendonça Filho (*The Secret Agent*), alongside Hungarian filmmaker Ildikó Enyedi (*On Body and Soul*), Singaporean filmmaker Boo Junfeng (*Apprentice*), Australian cinematographer Ari Wegner (*The Power of the Dog*), and Australian First Nations producer and director Sally Riley (*Mystery Road*).

SHEEP IN THE BOX



TUE 9 JUN 8:20 PM STATE
WED 10 JUN 12:00 PM STATE

SUN 14 JUN 7:45 PM EV5

15+

Japan | 2026 | 126 mins | In Japanese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Hirokazu Kore-eda | Producers: Matsuzaki Kaoru, Banse Megumi | Cast: Haruka Ayase, Daigo Yamamoto, Rimu Kuwaki | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Direct from the Cannes Competition, Kore-eda Hirokazu's (*Shoplifters*, SFF 2018; *Monster*, SFF 2023) *Sheep in the Box* is a moving drama about bereft parents turning to AI to rebuild their family.

Set in the near future, *Sheep in the Box* poses profound and disturbing questions about what will constitute family and human connection not too long from now. Grieving their young son who died in mysterious circumstances, Otone and her husband Kensuke turn to REbirth, a company assisting the bereaved by allowing them to spend more time with their loved ones. Using AI-generated robotics, the company supplies the parents with a state-of-the-art humanoid replication of their lost son, Kakeru. Initially, the humanoid is barely communicative, able only to say "I'm home." Kensuke dismissively refers to it as a "Tamagotchi" or a "Roomba". But rapidly, the humanoid develops and appears to have memories it couldn't possibly have, and Otone and Kensuke are perplexed to find themselves drawn closer and closer to what appears more and more to be their son. But with the closeness comes parental pressure, and in the town a group of children are gathering new recruits for a mysterious mission. Kore-eda, the brilliant director of children as in *Nobody Knows*, *Broker* and *Monster*, draws terrific performances from the child actors in this thought-provoking drama about the future of grief, human relations and parenting.



Kore-eda Hirokazu is a Palme d'Or-winning Japanese filmmaker. Previous films include *Maborosi* (SFF 1996); *After Life* (SFF 1999); *Distance* (2001); *Nobody Knows* (2004); *Hana* (SFF 2007); *Still Walking* (SFF 2009); *Air Doll* (2009); *I Wish* (2011); *Like Father, Like Son* (2013); *Our Little Sister* (SFF 2015); *After the Storm* (2016); *Shoplifters* (SFF 2018); *Broker* (SFF 2022); and *Monster* (SFF 2023).



Shalom Almond, winner of the 2025 Documentary Australia Award for *Songs Inside*

DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA AWARD



You'll see Australia's most exciting documentary filmmakers present a world of stories – each illuminating, unmissable and urgent.

Sydney Film Festival is proud to present the annual Documentary Australia Award, supported by Documentary Australia.

This prize acknowledges excellence in Australian documentary production. As well as receiving a \$20,000 cash prize courtesy of Documentary Australia, the winning film becomes Academy Award eligible.

Previous winners: *Songs Inside* (2025), *Welcome to Babel* (2024), *Marungka Tjalatjunu (Dipped in Black)* (2023), *Keep Stepping* (2022), *I'm Wanita* (2021), *Descent* (2020), *She Who Must Be Loved* (2019), *Ghosthunter* (2018), *The Pink House* (2017), *In the Shadow of the Hill* (2016), *Only the Dead* (2015), *35 Letters* (2014), *Buckskin* (2013), *Killing Anna* (2012), *Life in Movement* (2011), *The Snowman* (2010), *A Good Man* (2009) and *Contact* (2009).

 DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA

MOCKBUSTER



SAT 6 JUN 8:40 PM EV9
SUN 7 JUN 7:15 PM DNT3

15+

Australia | 2025 | 90 mins | In English
Director: Anthony Frith | Screenwriters: Anthony Frith, Sandy Cameron | Producers: David Elliot-Jones, Sandy Cameron, Naomi Ball | Australian Distributor: Umbrella Entertainment

An Australian filmmaker documents his struggle to fulfil his dreams via the notorious profit-driven production house The Asylum (*Sharknado*) in this hilarious audience award winner.

B-movie fan and corporate video maker Anthony Frith has long aspired to direct a feature. In a last-ditch attempt, he contacts a legendary trash movie house, creators of many mockbusters (blockbuster knockoffs). A meeting with executives in Los Angeles follows and he heads home filled with trepidation, and the promise of a script. He is given just six days to shoot a dinosaur film in suburban Adelaide on a shoestring budget. Frith documents the chaotic process, his bewildered cast, and his own creeping self-doubt. As he chases his dream through the hustle that is low-budget genre filmmaking, Frith simultaneously creates this riotous yet insightful documentary.

Sun 7 Jun session screens with resulting film *The Land that Time Forgot*.

Festival Guest: Anthony Frith

PHENOMENA



SUN 7 JUN 3:30 PM EV3
TUE 9 JUN 6:00 PM PALC1

ALL AGES

Australia | 2026 | 86 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director: Josef Gatti | Screenwriters: Josef Gatti, Joseph Nizeti | Producers: Rob Innes, Josef Gatti, Jessica Harrop, Caitlin Mae Burke, Jad Abumrad | Sales Agent: INDOX

A psychedelic odyssey into the fabric of the universe, complete with hyper-real imagery, immersive practical experiments and ambient music from Nils Frahm and Rival Consoles.

Debut filmmaker Josef Gatti, with the help of his physics teacher dad, sets out to visualise the forces and elements that shape the natural world such as light, matter, energy, entropy and life. Light is fractured, crystals form and spread, hydrocarbons flow, sound is visualised, and inner workings are revealed. Every image in the film is real, captured on camera with no visual effects or artifice – a fact that makes this visually stunning documentary even more remarkable. This art meets science adventure (which started life as an online series) is accompanied by a glorious electronic score making this mesmeric journey a truly sensory see-it-in-the-cinema experience. A hit at True/False FF and CPH:DOX 2026.

Festival Guests: Josef Gatti and members of the film team

THE PIANO TUNER



SAT 13 JUN 6:30 PM SLNSW
SUN 14 JUN 2:15 PM PNORT3

ALL AGES

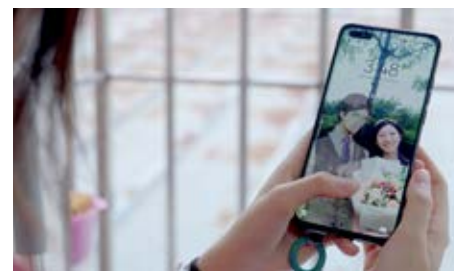
Australia | 2025 | 90 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director: Natalia Laska | Screenwriters: Natalia Laska, Fiona Strain | Producers: Julia Overton, Tom Zubrycki | Production Company: Jotz Productions

On a rescue mission to save the piano, a passionate piano tuner meets a diverse mix of owners and their pianos – revealing their stories and relationship with the instrument.

Martin Tucker is a 'piano doctor', diagnosing glitches in everything from ancient uprights to baby grands. Australia was once home to the largest number of pianos in the world. But with electric keyboards replacing aging acoustics and a lack of piano tuners, many pianos are now destined for landfill. Seeking new clients, Martin heads north with a carload of spare keys, strings and other paraphernalia. Everyone he meets along the way, whether hospitable old-timers, isolated eccentrics or enthusiastic families, has a story to tell about their piano. Over eight years, director Natalia Laska filmed her partner Martin, capturing his dedication, and celebrating Australia's love for this marvellous instrument and its music.

Festival Guests: Natalia Laska and members of the film team

REPLICA



FRI 12 JUN 6:00 PM EV3
SUN 14 JUN 2:15 PM DNT2

15+

Australia, France | 2026 | 90 mins | In English and Mandarin with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Chouwa Liang | Producer: Andy Huang | Sales Agent: CAT&Docs

Three women, disillusioned by the realities of life and relationships in modern China, turn to AI for love and connection in this insightful, award-winning documentary.

Qin, Sonya and Muna are bright and capable but they struggle with loneliness, disconnection and gender discrimination – underscored by China's former one child policy. Factory worker Qin creates Mr. Lu on the app Glow; he's witty, dependable and devoted. Independent Sonya suspects Replika-created Stephen is cheating on her. Muna, married but feeling unloved at home, finds comfort in Orion, produced through ChatGPT. These virtual partners provide all three women with emotional support and comfort, but how long can the fantasy last? Is artificial intimacy a refuge or a trap? Director Chouwa Liang, inspired by her personal experience, delivers a fascinating exploration of love, intimacy and gender in modern China.

Festival Guests: Chouwa Liang and Andy Huang

RODEO DREAMS



WED 10 JUN 6:30 PM EV9 ALL AGES
FRI 12 JUN 6:00 PM DNT3

Australia | 2026 | 90 mins | In English | World Premiere
Directors: Rhian Skirving, W.A.M. Bleakley | Producers: Anna Charalambous, Charlotte Wheaton | Production Company: Good Thing Productions

The story of four young Australian bull riders as they follow their dreams across Queensland's Gulf Country to win the prestigious yet cash-strapped Mount Isa Rodeo.

Considered one of the most dangerous sports on Earth, bull riding is eight seconds of fast and furious tension – with the chance of a prize – preceded by months of determined graft. It's a risky sport for youthful dreamers like Peter Jnr, living in remote Doomadgee with his ex-bull rider father; tenacious Camicka, hustling on a feedlot; Mount Isa local favourite Donovan; and talented larrikin Darcy. Filmed over three years, this engrossing documentary captures the grit and determination of the four Queenslanders, with their stories accompanied by a soulful score from Sam Teskey (Teskey Brothers).

Festival Guests: Rhian Skirving, William A. Bleakley and members of the film team

SILENCED



WED 3 JUN 7:00 PM STATE 15+
SAT 6 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ1
SAT 13 JUN 2:00 PM PNORT3

Australia, UK | 2026 | 97 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Selina Miles | Producer: Blake Hoffman | Australian Distributor: Sharmill Films

This post #MeToo documentary reveals how defamation laws are weaponised to silence survivors. Featuring human rights lawyer Jennifer Robinson, Amber Heard and Brittany Higgins.

Courtroom footage and behind-the-headlines interviews reveal how the legal system is being used to victimise, discredit and ruin survivors, and journalists reporting on their stories. From Amber Heard in London to journalist Catalina Ruiz-Navarro in Colombia, and Brittany Higgins in our own backyard, women globally face a new kind of silencing at the hands of perpetrators of sexual violence. It's a legal backlash Australian Jennifer Robinson is committed to fighting, inspired by her grandmother who was also a survivor. With unrivalled access, Selina Miles (*Martha: A Picture Story*, SFF 2019) challenges the flaws in the justice system that make this silencing possible, while revealing the cost to those who speak up.

Festival Guests: Selina Miles and members of the film team

SUKUNDIMI WALKS BEFORE ME



THU 11 JUN 6:00 PM EV9 ALL AGES
SAT 13 JUN 2:00 PM DNT3

Australia, New Zealand | 2026 | 93 mins | In Iatmul, English and Tok Pisin with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Directors: Matasila Freshwater, Lachlan McLeod | Screenwriters: Matasila Freshwater, Nick Fenton | Producers: David Elliot-Jones, Maria Tanner, Kerry Warika, Emmanuel Peni, Lachlan McLeod | Australian Distributor: Screen Inc.

This powerful doc follows an Indigenous PNG community's campaign to preserve their future, when the Sepik River, 'the Amazon of the Asia-Pacific', is threatened by mining.

In 2016, a global mining company submitted a plan to the Papua New Guinea government to build a mine near the Sepik's waters. The scheme has the potential to pollute this biodiversity hotspot, destroying the environment, livelihood and wellbeing of the Sepik people. Emmanuel (Manu) Peni leads his community in a grassroots crusade, invoking Indigenous and ancestral knowledge against the forces of colonial bureaucracy. In following the campaign, the filmmakers, Matasila Freshwater (*Vai*, SFF 2019) and Lachlan McLeod, explore the Sepik people's spiritual connection to their natural world. As Manu explains, "the living river, this is our identity, it is us, it runs inside me."

Festival Guests: Matasila Freshwater, Lachlan McLeod and members of the film team

TIME AND TIDE



THU 4 JUN 6:00 PM EV3 ALL AGES
SAT 6 JUN 1:15 PM DNT2

Australia | 2026 | 99 mins | In Min Nan Chinese and Mandarin with English and Chinese subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Vee Shi | Producers: Nicholson Ren, Vee Shi | Production Company: Niu Studios

Contemporary China is seen through the eyes of a multigenerational family navigating the pressures of familial obligation in this compelling, hybrid docu-drama.

Filmmaker Vee Shi's father, a once proud and stubborn patriarch, is in poor health following a stroke. A longtime Australian resident, Vee Shi hasn't seen his father for several years. In truth, Vee Shi has always been distant from his family. He heads to his remote hometown in Fuqing with the dual purpose of making a fiction film, and to truly understand his parents for the first time. But as he turns his camera on his family, including his unhappily married mother and single-mum sister, reality and fiction start to blur as generational pain and regret are exposed. Vee Shi's feature-length debut is an extraordinarily raw and intimate vérité-style film, the first ever shot in the Fuqing dialect.

Festival Guests: Vee Shi and Nicholson Ren

WHISTLE



FRI 5 JUN 6:15 PM SOH ALL AGES
SUN 7 JUN 9:30 AM STATE

Australia, USA, Spain, Japan | 2025 | 84 mins | In English, Spanish and Japanese with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director: Christopher Nelius | Screenwriters: Christopher Nelius, Al Hicks | Producers: Camilla Mazzaferro, Louise Smith, Luke Mazzaferro, Al Hicks, Casey Ventura | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

An offbeat Aussie crowd pleaser following the world's greatest whistling competition, from the eccentric competitors to passionate devotees, as egos clash and notes soar. Toronto 2025.

Unsurprisingly, whistling as a competitive sport attracts an eccentric crowd – among them an anxious New York actress, a fiercely ambitious Spanish competitor, a perpetual runner-up Japanese muso, and a piping pop star. Wrangling this multifarious mob, is 'Whistling Diva' producer Carole Anne Kaufman, a contentious figure, who's on a mission to elevate the artform and the competition. Directed by Christopher Nelius (*Girls Can't Surf*, SFF 2021) and produced by the Oscar-nominated team behind *Porcelain War* (SFF 2024), this entertaining documentary in the tradition of *Best in Show* and *The Golden Spurtle*, celebrates the highs and lows of competitive musical whistling.

Festival Guests: Christopher Nelius and members of the film team

YUMBURRA



SAT 6 JUN 2:00 PM SLNSW ALL AGES
SUN 7 JUN 5:00 PM DNT3

Australia | 2026 | 86 mins | In English
World Premiere
Director: Grace McKenzie | Screenwriters: Bruce Pascoe, Grace McKenzie | Producers: Tom Zubrycki, Grace McKenzie, Brian McKenzie | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

A lyrical portrait of Bruce Pascoe in the aftermath of *Dark Emu* living on his riverside farm, recharging and reflecting, as he tests out the theories proposed in his book.

With the proceeds of his bestseller, Pascoe purchased a property on the Wallagarough River, where he grows native grains and reinvents ways to process them. Filmmaker Grace McKenzie (*Audrey of the Alps*, SFF 2013) deftly captures Pascoe's stories of the land, his childhood, and Aboriginal ancestry. The bitter response by some in the media and academia to *Dark Emu* disturbed Pascoe and upended his family, but in the local waterways and mountains he's finding strength and the courage to move on. Pascoe is a mesmerising storyteller, his resonant words matched by exquisite imagery, shot by Grace and her father, industry stalwart Brian McKenzie (*Winter's Harvest*, Rouben Mamoulian Award winner 1980).

Festival Guests: Grace McKenzie and members of the film team



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Sukundimi Walks Before Me

2025 FIRST NATIONS AWARD

Truant Pictures founder and CEO Zareh Nalbandian presenting the 2025 First Nations Award to winner *Wilfred Buck*

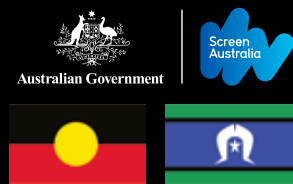
2026 First Nations Award Jury: Beck Cole, Mark Coles Smith, and Shozo Ichiyama

FIRST NATIONS AWARD



The First Nations Program showcases fearless Indigenous storytellers from Australia and around the world reshaping cinema on their own terms. From urgent political documentaries to animated ancestral lore, arctic epics, atmospheric horror, musical moments and vibrant rom-coms, these filmmakers defy expectation, break form, and lead global cinematic innovation grounded in sovereignty, culture and lived experience.

Laurie Mansfield,
First Nations Program Advisor



FIRST NATIONS AWARD
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THU 4 JUN 8:40 PM PALC1 15+
TUE 9 JUN 6:45 PM EV11

USA, Denmark | 2026 | 80 mins | In English and Anishinaabemowin with English subtitles
Directors: Adam Khalil, Zack Khalil | Producers: Steve Holmgren, Adam Khalil, Zack Khalil, Grace Remington, Jacque Clark, Franny Alfano | Festival Contact: The Film Collaborative

This piercing hybrid doc traces Anishinaabe repatriation efforts for their Ancestors held in museums, confronts colonial legacies, and honours spiritual continuity. Sundance 2026.

Both powerful and contemplative, this hybrid documentary follows the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA) as they work to bring Ancestors and sacred objects home from museums, archives and libraries. Blending vérité portraits with reflective passages and luminous animation, the film exposes the enduring colonial frameworks that displaced and confined Indigenous remains under the guise of preservation. At its heart is the emotional labour of repatriation, as practitioners navigate law, history and spirituality. Honouring Ojibwe understandings of time as fluid and relational, the film becomes both a call for justice and a moving meditation on continuity, care and return.

ÁRRU



WED 10 JUN 3:00 PM STATE 18+
THU 11 JUN 6:15 PM HOC2
SAT 13 JUN 4:45 PM RITZ5

Norway, Sweden, Finland | 2026 | 95 mins | In Northern Sámi, Norwegian, Finnish and Swedish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Elle Sofe Sara | Screenwriters: Elle Sofe Sara, Johan Fasting | Producer: Elisa Fernanda Pirir | Cast: Sara Marielle Gaup Beaska, Simon Issát Marainen, Ayla Gáren Nutti | Australian Distributor: Palace Films

In this powerful, song-filled drama, a Sámi reindeer herder confronts a mining project threatening her ancestral lands and way of life. Berlinale 2026.

Director Elle Sofe Sara's debut feature unfolds in the stark beauty of Sápmi in the northern part of the Scandinavian Peninsula, where reindeer herder Maia (Sara Marielle Gaup Beaska) is forced to confront a mining project encroaching on her ancestral lands. As protests against the operation intensify, the return of Maia's uncle reopens old family wounds, forcing Maia into a reckoning between kinship and survival. Weaving together grounded drama with bursts of traditional song and movement, the film draws on Sámi cultural expression to explore trauma, resilience and connection to the land. A fierce and cathartic tale about breaking one's silence to do the right thing. Screens with *The Native Police*

AT THE PLACE OF GHOSTS

SK+TE'KMUIJUE'KATIK



FRI 5 JUN 6:15 PM DNT3 18+
MON 8 JUN 7:15 PM EV3

Canada, Belgium | 2025 | 81 mins | In English, Mi'kmaq and French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Bretten Hannam | Producers: Jason Levangie, Marc Tetreault, Martin Katz, Bretten Hannam | Cast: Blake Alec Miranda, Forrest Goodluck, Glen Gould | Sales Agent: Magnify

Bretten Hannam's supernatural thriller follows Mi'kmaq siblings into a dark primordial forest. To heal their past, they must unite to battle a malevolent spirit. Toronto 2025.

In a primordial forest where time collapses, estranged Mi'kmaq siblings Mise'l and Antle must confront the trauma that shattered their childhood. Now in their thirties, a malevolent spirit of bones and rot haunts them, forcing them to reunite. Together, they journey into the dark forest Sk+te'kmujue'katik to confront a life-altering moment they tried to bury. Directed by L'nu filmmaker Bretten Hannam (*Wildhood, North Mountain*), *At the Place of Ghosts* is a visceral supernatural thriller that traverses the boundaries between the physical and spirit worlds. Intimate and otherworldly, this tale blends haunting tones with family drama. It is a cinematic exploration of healing that asks: can new life grow from old wounds? Screens with *Kurī*

CEREMONY



MON 8 JUN 2:30 PM EV11 15+
THU 11 JUN 6:30 PM DNT2

Canada | 2026 | 84 mins | In English and Nuxalk with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Producer: Banchi Hanuse | Festival Contact: Banchi Hanuse

This hybrid film flows through Nuxalk lands, lives and rivers where the ooligan fish no longer swim – tracing memory, ceremony, and the ripples of colonialism. Audience winner, SXSW.

Intimate and immersive, director Banchi Hanuse's latest documentary opens with the disappearance of the ooligan (candlefish) from Bella Coola's riverbanks in British Columbia, Canada – before unfolding into a wider story of Nuxalk land, life, and memory. From the hum of a ramshackle community radio, voices carry testimony, dreams, and archival echoes, tracing ecological collapse alongside colonial encroachment. Breathtaking watercolour animation brings ancestral stories and fish spirits to life, linking land, water, and people. As a new generation returns to the river and rekindles ceremony, the film becomes a celebration of connection, restoration, and the life flowing through people, place, and memory.

NIKA & MADISON



WED 10 JUN 6:15 PM EV11 18+
SUN 14 JUN 5:15 PM PALC1

Canada | 2025 | 85 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Producer: Eva Thomas | Screenwriters: Eva Thomas, Michael McGowan | Cast: Ellyn Jade, Star Slade, Amanda Brugel | Sales Agent: Canoe Film

After an act of self defence turns their lives upside down, two Indigenous women go on the run in Eva Thomas's gripping film – a story of sisterhood, survival and resistance.

Eva Thomas' second feature expands on her short *Redlights*, tracing the fallout of a violent encounter between a police officer and two estranged cousins. When Madison returns home to her community, tensions with her cousin Nika simmer beneath the surface – until a night out turns catastrophic, forcing them into flight. Now in the crosshairs of a major police investigation, the pair move between reserve and wilderness, while two detectives begin to question the official story. While rooted in the legacy of police brutality and sexual violence, the film skillfully centres the volatile, tender bond between its leads, becoming a powerful portrait of survival, trust, and reconnection. Toronto 2025.

PROPER LOVED UP SHORTS

THU 4 JUN 6:30 PM EV9
SAT 6 JUN 4:15 PM DNT3

15+

Proper Loved Up gathers bold First Nations rom-coms where emerging voices explore love in all its forms – messy, tender, awkward and electric – across community, culture, and connection.



BELLY



Australia | 2026 | 12 mins | In English
World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Aaliyah Jade Bradbury
Producer: Cian Mungatj McCue | Cast: Megan Lilly Wilding, Dion Williams | Festival Contact: Cian McCue

Fresh from a breakup, Maya arrives at a house party masking pain with humour, until an unexpected encounter forces her to confront insecurity, desire, and self-acceptance.

G.O.A.T



Australia | 2026 | 12 mins | In English
World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Kimberley Benjamin
Producer: Devina McPherson | Cast: Leonie Whyman, Nelson Baker, Shontane Farmer
Festival Contact: Devina McPherson

Lilah falls hard for her new coworker but isn't sure she's queer, sparking a chaotic, heartfelt race to find out before she misses her chance to ask her to the NAIDOC Ball.

A GRIEF ENCOUNTER



Australia | 2026 | 12 mins | In English
World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: James Ashley McLaren
Producer: Hannah French | Cast: Deborah Mailman, Wayne Blair | Festival Contact: Hannah French

A dark romantic comedy starring Deborah Mailman and Wayne Blair, where a taxidermist's flirtation with a customer spirals into a macabre reckoning with grief, desire, and loss.

I DARE (LOVE) YOU



Australia | 2026 | 12 mins | In Gamilaraay with English subtitles | **World Premiere**
Director, Screenwriter: Jerome Smith | Producer: David Cook | Cast: Googooewon Knox, Aisha Wighton, Bernadette Duncan | Festival Contact: David Cook

David is forced to confront long-buried feelings for his housemate in a tender story about love, jealousy, and the risk of saying too much.

MANJUTJI (CATCHING EYES)



Australia | 2026 | 11 mins | In Yolŋu Matha with English subtitles | **World Premiere**
Director, Screenwriter: Siena Mayutu Wumari Stubbs
Producer: Libby Collins | Cast: Cindy Rostron, Denzel Dhurtjijurrŋi Marika | Festival Contact: Libby Collins

Set in the Aboriginal community of Yirrkala in Arnhem Land, this love story explores how two teens navigate their mutual feelings while maintaining cultural boundaries and kinship.

POWWOW PEOPLE



SUN 7 JUN 2:15 PM PALC1
SUN 14 JUN 6:40 PM DNT2

15+

USA | 2025 | 88 mins | In English | **Australian Premiere**
Director: Sky Hopinka | Producers: John Cardellino, Adam Piron | Festival Contact: John Cardellino

Sky Hopinka's immersive film drops us into a contemporary powwow, where dancers, drummers and voices gather in a celebration of sovereignty, presence and living culture.

Visionary filmmaker Hopinka's latest documentary marks a deliberate departure from his previous work, embracing a restrained observational mode that positions the powwow – and Indigenous culture more broadly – as a living, contemporary practice. In contrast to dominant tendencies to historicise Indigenous peoples, the film insists on presence, situating its subjects firmly in the here and now. Its patient, cinema vérité approach builds an intimate immediacy, drawing viewers into the textures of lived experience and collective gathering. The film becomes both a political assertion of contemporary Indigenous presence and a gesture toward cultural continuity. Toronto 2025.

WRONG HUSBAND

UIKSARINGITARA



SAT 6 JUN 6:00 PM DNT2
SAT 13 JUN 2:15 PM EV11

ALL AGES

Canada | 2025 | 100 mins | In Inuktitut with English subtitles | **Australian Premiere**
Director: Zacharias Kunuk | Screenwriters: Zacharias Kunuk, Samuel Cohn-Cousineau | Producers: Jonathan Frantz, Samuel Cohn-Cousineau, Carol Kunnuk | Cast: Theresia Kappianaq, Haiden Angutimarik, Leah Panimera
Sales Agent: Isuma Distribution International

Set against an Arctic backdrop in 2000 BCE, two lovers defy an evil shaman's curse to restore balance to the ancient landscape. **Winner Best Canadian Film, Toronto 2025.**

In 2000 BCE, lovers Kaujak and Sapa are promised to each other at birth. This sacred bond is shattered when a sudden death forces Kaujak's mother into a new marriage, tearing the pair apart. In an ancient world where spiritual and physical boundaries blur, Kaujak must resist aggressive suitors and an evil shaman's lethal curse to find her way back to her promised husband. Directed by celebrated Inuk filmmaker Zacharias Kunuk (*Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*, *Searchers*, SFF 2016), *Uiksaringitara: Wrong Husband* is a cinematic feat. Best Canadian Film at the Toronto International Film Festival, this powerful tale blends epic drama with supernatural suspense, exploring classical themes of fate, justice, and jealousy.

Screens with *The Gnawer of Rocks*

SHORTS

THE GNAWER OF ROCKS

MANGITTATUARJUK



ALL AGES

Canada | 2025 | 14 mins | In Inuktitut with English subtitles | **Australian Premiere**
Director, Producer: Louise Flaherty | Screenwriters: Louise Flaherty, Neil Christopher | Cast: Nellie Enuaraq, Joan Joanas, Andrea Flaherty | Production Company: Taqqut Productions

This tale follows two young women trapped by the Mangittatuarjuk, as ancestral teachings and collective strength guide them toward survival.

Screens with *Wrong Husband*

THE NATIVE POLICE



18+

Australia | 2025 | 12 mins | In English | **World Premiere**
Director, Screenwriter: Charles Perrurie Perkins
Producer: Judah Jackson | Cast: Madeleine Madden, Jeremiah Daniels-Pepperill, Lahni Williams | Festival Contact: Judah Jackson

An Aboriginal Native Police officer escorts an Arrernte girl across desert Country, as violence forces a reckoning with identity and survival.

Screens with *Árru*

KURĪ



18+

New Zealand | 2025 | 13 mins | In English and Te Reo Māori with English subtitles | **Australian Premiere**
Director, Screenwriter: Ana Chaya Scotney | Producer: Julie Zhu | Cast: Keporah Torrance, Niwa Whatuira, Lachie Oliver-Kerby | Festival Contact: Julie Zhu

After her father's death, a young woman returns to Te Urewera, confronting grief and memory in a poetic, gothic meditation on home and belonging.

Screens with *At the Place of Ghosts*

SOCKS



15+

New Zealand | 2025 | 15 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Todd Karehana | Producers: Samantha Dutton, Jane Campion | Cast: Monty Walker, Indy Urban, Billy Cox | Festival Contact: Samantha Dutton

In small-town New Zealand, a Māori boy forms a bond with a Mormon missionary, tracing a delicate line between innocence, longing, and the search for connection.

Screens with *Strange River*, page 27



Chris C.F., Fraser Pemberton, William Jaka, Alexandra Walton: winners of the 2025 Dendy Live Action Short Award for *Faceless*

DENDY AWARDS FOR AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILMS



In its 57-year history, Sydney Film Festival's short film competition has launched the careers of countless directors, writers, producers, cinematographers and other film creatives.

You'll see who's next when 10 finalists compete for five illustrious cash prizes: the Dendy Live Action Short Award; the Yoram Gross Animation Award; the Dendy Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director; the AFTRS Craft Award; and the Event Cinemas Rising Talent Award for Screenwriting. All finalists screen together in two sessions with filmmakers in attendance.

DENDY AWARDS CEREMONY AND CELEBRATION



SAT 13 JUN 5:00 PM, THE HUB, LOWER TOWN HALL

Entry included with ticket to SAT 13 JUN screening

Following the premiere screening of the short films eligible for the Dendy Award, find out which films take the five prestigious cash prizes, while celebrating alongside the Australian filmmaking community.

SAT 13 JUN 2:30 PM EV4
SUN 14 JUN 3:30 PM EV5

18+



DATE 3



Australia | 2025 | 16 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Cristabel Sved
Producers: Madeleine de Wilde Barr, Kali Reid
Cast: Kate Box, Daniel Henshall | Festival Contact: Madeleine de Wilde Barr

Ella (Kate Box) psyches herself up for a third date with Harry (Daniel Henshall) but boundaries get crossed. Is it simply a case of miscommunication or something more sinister?

FLESH FRUIT



Australia | 2025 | 11 mins | In English
World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Madison Hislop-Stoessel
Producer: Eleanor Somerville Cast: Sam Fraser, Claire Weller Price, Damon O'Regan | Festival Contact: Madison Hislop-Stoessel

A farmer manages to save his livelihood by selling a new fruit product whose origins are best kept a secret between him and his domineering mother.

FLYWIRE



Australia | 2026 | 6 mins | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer, Festival Contact: Jon DiNapoli

Late in the night, while the world sleeps, a subterranean swamp craft rushes beneath the reeds in this animated short.

GINKGO YINXING



Australia | 2025 | 7 mins | In Mandarin with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter: Jiayun Zhang | Producer: Christie Widiarto | Cast: Anne Pang, Alice Qin, Elizabeth (Poppy) Eather | Festival Contact: Jiayun Zhang

A woman with dementia, under her daughter's care, drifts between reality and memories of her mother when she was a child.

MANUTJI (CATCHING EYES)



Australia | 2026 | 11 mins | In Yolngu Matha with English subtitles
World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Siena Mayutu Wummarri Stubbs | Producer: Libby Collins | Cast: Cindy Rostron, Denzel Dhurrtjiyurtji Marika | Festival Contact: Libby Collins

Set in the Aboriginal community of Yirrkala in Arnhem Land, this love story explores how two teens navigate their mutual feelings while maintaining cultural boundaries and kinship.

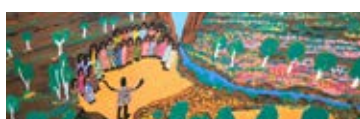
MR ADIDOS



Australia | 2025 | 17 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Henry Stone
Producers: Georgia Noe, Henry Stone
Cast: Nash Edgerton, Elouise Eftos, Nicholas Papademetriou | Festival Contact: Henry Stone

Bronson (Nash Edgerton) is obsessed with finding a vintage sweater to complete his fantasy but a surreal encounter with twins (Elouise Eftos) turns the mission into something weirder.

OUR CHOIR HAS ALWAYS BEEN TRAVELLING



Australia | 2025 | 10 mins | In English and Western Aranda with English subtitles
Director: Judith Pungarta Inkamala, Marjorie 'Nunga' Williams, Nelson Armstrong | Screenwriter: Eloise Lindeback, Judith Pungarta Inkamala, Marjorie 'Nunga' Williams, Anita Mbitjana Ratara, Kunmanara Donald, Betty Conway, Lizzie Topsy Topora Jako | Producers: Eloise Lindeback, Ness Sim, Alinta Brown
Festival Contact: Eloise Lindeback

This animated story charts the international legacy and intergenerational impact of the Ntaria Choir.

RAFT RACE



Australia | 2026 | 10 mins | In English
World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Chloe Kemp
Cast: Cassie Robb, Miles Savvides, Mackenzie McAllister | Festival Contact: Chloe Kemp

While camping with her family for the annual raft race, Frankie (11) is suddenly thrust into awareness of her developing body and how the world will perceive her.

SAINT VALENTINE



Australia | 2025 | 17 mins | In English
World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Vanessa Gazy
Producers: Cyna Strachan, Liam Heyen
Cast: Josephine Blazier, Mackenzie Mazur, Max Mayer-Raymont | Festival Contact: Cyna Strachan

A coming-of-age story where two sexually frustrated sisters, who are unsupervised and isolated, encounter two handsome Mormon American boys who come knocking on their door.

SUGAR



Australia | 2026 | 13 mins | In English
World Premiere
Director: Simon Croker | Screenwriter: Simon Croker, Benjamin Nichol | Producer: Sarah-Jane McAllan | Cast: Fraser Morrison, Ian Roberts, Lyndon Watts | Festival Contact: Simon Croker

Meet Oscar. A sex worker introduced to GHB by an older man. As the drug takes over, an overdose occurs, forcing him to make a choice which will transform him.



“The Sustainable Future Award was invaluable to *Floodland*, it gave us a sense of legitimacy which carried through our impact campaign and was crucial to us being able to utilise the film as a tool for change.”

Jordan Giusti, recipient for *Floodland*

The Sustainable Future Award amplifies voices for environmental progress. Made possible through philanthropic support from Amanda Maple-Brown, this \$40,000 prize is the largest in the world dedicated to environmental-led cinema. The Award is a beacon, harnessing cinema’s mass reach to rally people around the most global and urgent issues of today.

Find the 2026 nominees here:

Ceremony, page 12

Just Look Up, page 31

Nuisance Bear, page 31

Sukundimi Walks Before Me, page 11

Time and Water, page 33

Previous winners:

Jordan Giusti, *Floodland* (2025),

Alina Simone, *Black Snow* (2024),

Sarvnik Kaur, *Against the Tide* (2023),

Karl Malakunas, *Delikado* (2022),

Eva Orner, *Burning* (2021)

Every film shortlisted for the Sustainable Future Award is listed with the below green leaf:



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FRIGHT NIGHT
HORROR PREVIEW SCREENINGS

AND THERE'S ALWAYS MORE!



Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma

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You'll see the hottest new films at the spectacular State Theatre – the beating heart of Sydney Film Festival. Be moved and inspired by world premieres and award-winning films featuring some of the biggest and brightest stars, plus special guests and red carpet events.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS



Silent Friend

ÁRRU



WED 10 JUN 3:00 PM STATE
THU 11 JUN 6:15 PM HOC2
SAT 13 JUN 4:45 PM RITZ5

Norway, Sweden, Finland | 2026 | 95 mins | In Northern Sámi, Norwegian, Finnish and Swedish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Elle Sofe Sara | Screenwriters: Elle Sofe Sara, Johan Fasting | Producer: Elisa Fernanda Pirir | Cast: Sara Marielle Gaup Beaska, Simon Issát Marainen, Ayla Gáren Nutti | Australian Distributor: Palace Films

In this powerful, song-filled drama, a Sámi reindeer herder confronts a mining project threatening her ancestral lands and way of life. **Berlinale 2026.**

Director Elle Sofe Sara's debut feature unfolds in the stark beauty of Sápmi in the northern part of the Scandinavian Peninsula, where reindeer herder Maia (Sara Marielle Gaup Beaska) is forced to confront a mining project encroaching on her ancestral lands. As protests against the operation intensify, the return of Maia's long-absent uncle reopens old family wounds, forcing Maia into an impossible reckoning between kinship and survival. Weaving together grounded drama with bursts of traditional song and movement, the film draws on Sámi cultural expression to explore inherited trauma, resilience and connection to the land. A fierce and cathartic tale about breaking one's silence to do the right thing.

Screens with *The Native Police*

18+

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

HISTOIRES DE LA NUIT



WED 10 JUN 8:50 PM STATE
SAT 13 JUN 5:30 PM HOC5

France | 2026 | 114 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Léa Mysius | Producer: Jean-Louis Livi
Cast: Hafsia Herzi, Monica Bellucci, Benoît Magimel | Sales Agent: MK2 Films

Straight from the Cannes Competition, this taut thriller stars Hafsia Herzi and Monica Bellucci as neighbours whose plans for a pleasant birthday party go badly awry.

Nora (Herzi) lives with her husband Tom and daughter Ida on remote marshland. While Nora tries to progress in her work in town planning, Tom's money troubles on the farm are becoming more and more pressing. Still, it's Nora's birthday and Tom, along with Italian painter neighbour Cristina (Bellucci), plan an elegant celebration. When young Ida posts a video of the family on social media, her mother responds with irrational anger, but it will prove to be a moment of great importance and danger. With stunning imagery, director Léa Mysius (*Ava*, *The Five Devils*), one of French cinema's most promising talents, ratchets up the tension in this perfectly calibrated and acted edge-of-your-seat thriller.

18+

COLONY

GUNCHE



THU 4 JUN 8:30 PM STATE
FRI 5 JUN 6:30 PM EV4

South Korea | 2026 | 123 mins | In Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Yeon Sang-ho | Screenwriters: Yeon Sang-ho, Choi Gyu-seok | Producers: Yang Yoomin Hailey, Sung Joon-ho
Cast: Jun Gianna, Koo Kyo-hwan, Ji Chang-wook | Australian Distributor: K-Movie Entertainment

Train to Busan director Yeon Sang-ho reignites the zombie genre with this propulsive action film that sees a rapidly mutating virus unleashed. **Direct from Cannes Midnight.**

Biotech professor Se-jeong (Jun Ji-hyun, *The Thieves*, *Assassination*) is attending a conference on intelligence and information exchange when a disgruntled former employee, scientist Suh Young-cheol (Koo Kyo-hwan, *D.P.*), unleashes a potent virus – with the infected learning collectively and evolving in minutes. In the multi-purpose building – home to a conference centre, restaurants and retail stores – a ragtag group of the uninfected band together and try to stave off the growing horde of zombies. On the outside, politicians and emergency personnel gather, questioning whether the infected should be treated as patients to be cured or monsters to be destroyed. The exhilarating *Colony* will leave you breathless.

18+

DEAD MAN'S WIRE



TUE 9 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ5
THU 11 JUN 6:30 PM HOC5
FRI 12 JUN 3:00 PM STATE

USA | 2025 | 105 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Gus Van Sant | Screenwriter: Austin Kolodney
Producers: Cassian Elwes, Mark Amin, Sam Pressman, Tom Culliver, Andrea Bucko, Billy Hines, Veronica Radaelli, Matt Murphie, Paula Paizes, Joel David Moore, Remi Alfallah, Noor Alfallah, Sienna Oberman, Gordon Clark | Cast: Bill Skarsgård, Dacre Montgomery, Al Pacino | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Gus Van Sant (*Milk*) directs Bill Skarsgård, Dacre Montgomery and Al Pacino in this thrilling, true account of a 1977 hostage standoff. Venice 2025.

In February 1977, Indiana property developer Tony Kirtsis tied a shotgun trigger wire around the neck of mortgage broker Richard Hall (Dacre Montgomery, *Stranger Things*). Claiming to have been betrayed in a land deal, Kirtsis held Hall hostage in his grungy apartment while a media circus formed outside. Interrogating social and economic issues that are even more relevant and corrosive today, this pulsating thriller stars an electrifying Bill Skarsgård (*Nosferatu*) as the suddenly famous little guy who feels his American Dream has been stolen by morally bankrupt elites. Al Pacino brings the spirit of his American Spectacle hostage classic *Dog Day Afternoon* with him in a memorable role as Hall's calculating father.

15+

KNIFE: THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF SALMAN RUSHDIE



WED 3 JUN 8:15 PM DNT3
SAT 6 JUN 4:15 PM STATE
FRI 12 JUN 6:15 PM SLNSW
SUN 14 JUN 2:00 PM RITZ5

18+

USA | 2026 | 107 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Alex Gibney | Producers: Alex Gibney, Erin Edeiken, Sruthi Pinnamaneni | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Oscar winner Alex Gibney (*Taxi to the Dark Side*, SFF 2008) charts author Salman Rushdie's unbelievable recovery after being stabbed 15 times, using footage filmed by Rushdie's wife.

In 2022, Salman Rushdie was preparing to deliver a lecture on the United States as a safe haven for writers when a man rushed the stage and, in 27 seconds, stabbed him 15 times. Airlifted to hospital, Rushdie survived, barely, and his wife Rachel Eliza Griffiths began filming immediately, capturing an unfiltered view of his recovery, return to life and how he regained his spirit and hope for the future. Drawing from Rushdie's memoir *Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder*, the documentary also revisits key moments of his life in his own words. Gibney effortlessly moves between past and present, building a captivating account that raises vital questions about freedom of expression and the cost of speaking out.

THE MAN I LOVE



MON 8 JUN 4:00 PM DNT1
TUE 9 JUN 6:15 PM STATE
SUN 14 JUN 3:30 PM HOC5

18+

USA | 2026 | 96 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Ira Sachs | Screenwriters: Mauricio Zacharias, Ira Sachs | Producers: Scott McGehee, David Siegel, Mike Spreter, Myriam Schroeter, Misook Doolittle, Saïd Ben Saïd | Cast: Rami Malek, Tom Sturridge, Rebecca Hall | Sales Agent: MK2 Films

Direct from the Cannes Competition, Ira Sachs' new film is a moving and sensual romantic drama set in 1980s New York, starring Rami Malek, Tom Sturridge, Luther Ford and Rebecca Hall.

The late 1980s is an energetic time in New York, but the city is also deeply scarred by the AIDS crisis, with many lost. Jimmy George (Malek) is revered in the theatre world, and adored by his devoted partner (Sturridge). Despite a recent bout of serious illness, Jimmy finds a new lease on life when he meets an attractive new neighbour Vincent (Ford), and with their meeting perhaps a final chance to once more fall in love, and to retake the stage. In its beautiful depictions of Jimmy's varied relationships – with friends, lovers, a sibling, a nephew, parents – *The Man I Love* shows how widely and deeply devastating the loss of an individual can be on a community. It is a film that is somehow simultaneously tragic and life-affirming.



Colony

PRESSURE



SAT 6 JUN 1:45 PM STATE
TUE 9 JUN 6:15 PM PNORT3
SAT 13 JUN 6:00 PM HOC4

15+

UK, France, USA | 2026 | 100 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director: Anthony Maras | Screenwriters: David Haig, Anthony Maras | Producers: Eric Fellner, Tim Bevan, Lucas Webb | Cast: Andrew Scott, Brendan Fraser, Kerry Condon | Australian Distributor: STUDIOCANAL

Andrew Scott and Brendan Fraser star in the incredible true story of one meteorologist's mighty impact on D-Day. An edge-of-your-seat view of a world-changing event.

The much anticipated latest from acclaimed Australian director Anthony Maras (*Hotel Mumbai*, Dendy Award Winner *The Palace*), *Pressure* follows the nail-biting 72 hours in the lead-up to D-Day. General Dwight D. Eisenhower (Fraser) employs chief meteorologist Captain James Stagg (Scott) to advise him on when to launch the largest seaborne invasion in history. With the fate of the free world hanging in the balance, Captain Stagg must cut through military egos, crushing uncertainty and terrifyingly high stakes to make an impossible call. A tense historical thriller about weather, warfare and the burden of responsibility, *Pressure* turns a pivotal moment in modern history into gripping, muscular cinema.

RAYS AND SHADOWS

LES RAYONS ET LES OMBRES



MON 8 JUN 12:15 PM STATE
FRI 12 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ3
SAT 13 JUN 2:00 PM HOC4

18+

France | 2026 | 199 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Xavier Giannoli | Screenwriters: Xavier Giannoli, Jacques Fieschi | Producers: Olivier Delbos, Sidonie Dumas, Patrick Godeau | Cast: Jean Dujardin, Nastya Golubeva Carax, August Diehl | Australian Distributor: Palace Films

Based on true events, Xavier Giannoli's sweeping drama stars Oscar winner Jean Dujardin (*The Artist*) in an epic tale of collaboration and compromise in Nazi-occupied France.

Paris, late 1930s. Press baron Jean Luchoire (Dujardin) still believes in peace between France and Germany; meanwhile his glamorous daughter Corinne (Nastya Golubeva) is rising fast as a screen star. During the Nazi occupation of Paris, both are drawn into the orbit of the German elite through their ties to the German ambassador (August Diehl, *Inglourious Basterds*). As Jean's newspaper increasingly becomes a mouthpiece for the Reich's antisemitism and Corinne saunters through embassy parties, director Giannoli traces the seductions of power with nuance and precision. Following his Cesar-winning *Lost Illusions*, Giannoli crafts a grand WWII drama about the consequences of collaboration, rich with modern parallels.

KIRIN ICHIBAN

ICHIBAN IS
JAPANESE FOR NO.1

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Rays and Shadows

THE SAMURAI AND THE PRISONER

KOKUROJO



SAT 6 JUN 2:30 PM SOH
SAT 13 JUN 2:00 PM STATE

15+

Japan | 2026 | 147 mins | In Japanese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Kiyoshi Kurosawa | Producer: Satoko Ishida | Cast: Masahiro Motoki, Masaki Suda, Yuriko Yoshitaka | Sales Agent: Charades

Veteran auteur Kiyoshi Kurosawa (*Cure*, SFF 1998) delivers his first-ever samurai film with this majestic, Cannes-selected epic set in Japan's Warring States period.

Japan, 1578. Lord Araki Murashige (*Departures*) is at war with former ally, Oda. Oda sends gifted strategist Kuroda Kanbei (Masaki Suda, *Cloud*) as an envoy to Arioka Castle, where Murashige is holed up. Instead of executing Kanbei, as is samurai custom, Murashige imprisons him in his dungeon, keeping him as a valuable, yet dangerous, pawn. Set over four seasons, each surrounding a puzzling occurrence within Arioka Castle that Murashige must solve, the film masterfully melds elements of the samurai and detective genres, adapting the award-winning novel by Honobu Yonezawa. With supreme elegance, beauty and thematic control, *The Samurai and the Prisoner* earns its place in the esteemed canon of Japanese samurai cinema.

SILENT FRIEND



FRI 5 JUN 8:30 PM SOH
SUN 7 JUN 1:45 PM STATE
THU 11 JUN 8:30 PM RITZ5

15+

Germany, France, Hungary | 2025 | 147 mins | In English and German with English subtitles

Director, Screenwriter: Ildikó Enyedi | Producers: Reinhard Brundig, Mónika Mécs, Nicolas Elghozi, Morgane Olivier, Meng Xie | Cast: Tony Leung Chiu-wai, Luna Wedler, Léa Seydoux | Australian Distributor: Hi Gloss Entertainment

Tony Leung Chiu-wai and Léa Seydoux star in the wondrous latest from Ildikó Enyedi (*On Body and Soul*, Sydney Film Prize 2017), following three era-spanning stories connected by a tree.

A mighty ginkgo tree in a German university town bears silent witness to the lives of three characters over more than a century. In 1908, a bright botanist (Luna Wedler, Best Young Actress, Venice 2025) forges a challenging path as the first female student accepted by the male-dominated institution. In 1972, two classmates bond over a geranium in politically charged times. And in 2020, a lonely visiting neuroscientist (Leung Chiu-wai), stuck on campus, seeks meaning from the tree's electromagnetic signals under the guidance of a French biologist (Seydoux). Oscar-nominated SFF regular Ildikó Enyedi returns in resplendent form with this perceptive exploration of humanity's deep-rooted connection with nature.

Festival Guest: Ildikó Enyedi

SUNDAYS

LOS DOMINGOS



FRI 5 JUN 3:00 PM STATE
SAT 6 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ3
SUN 7 JUN 4:30 PM HOC5

ALL AGES

Spain, France | 2025 | 115 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Alauda Ruiz de Azúa | Producers: Marisa Fernández Armenteros, Sandra Hermida, Nahikari Ipiña, Manu Calvo | Cast: Blanca Soroa, Patricia López Amaiz, Miguel Garcés | Australian Distributor: Palace Films

Bright 17-year-old Ainara surprises everyone by trialling convent life in this piercing drama about faith and family. Winner of Best Film, San Sebastián Film Festival 2025.

What does a family do when its clever teenage daughter announces her plan to become a cloistered nun? Alauda Ruiz de Azúa's beautifully honed, Goya Best Film-winning drama treats Ainara's (Blanca Soroa) desire to choose God over the material world with respect and reservation. With disarming quietude, the film follows Ainara's life as a typical hormonal high school student whose radical act of faith gradually unmasks the frailties of family members, including widowed father Iñaki and secular aunt Maite. An acutely observed and non-judgemental study in teenage rebellion of an unusual kind, *Sundays* offers a rewarding experience, whether faith plays a role in your life or not.

Screens with *Second Nature*

ROSE



FRI 5 JUN 6:15 PM STATE
SAT 6 JUN 5:45 PM SOH
SUN 14 JUN 6:15 PM PNORT3

18+

Austria, Germany | 2026 | 94 mins | In German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Markus Schleinzer | Screenwriters: Markus Schleinzer, Alexander Brom | Producers: Johannes Schubert, Karsten Stöter, Tobias Walker, Philipp Worm | Cast: Sandra Hüller, Caro Braun, Godehard Giese | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Sandra Hüller won the Berlinale Silver Bear for this towering performance as a 17th century soldier who claims an inheritance only to have his identity brought into question.

Said to be the "true and twisted tale of a deceiver of land and folk, who, defying her birth as a woman, comported herself as a man and committed many a wicked deed," what follows is far more complex. Battle-worn, "the soldier" (Hüller, *Anatomy of a Fall*, SFF 2023) turns up in a village bearing the paperwork to lay claim to an abandoned farmstead. Initially sceptical, the villagers come to respect the industrious stranger. As the soldier's influence grows, he is pressured to marry, which he does – setting in motion a series of surprising and tragic events. Director Schleinzer (*Angelo*, SFF 2018) tackles the material, based on historical characters, with a wry humour and an admiration for a gender non-conforming stalwart.

TEENAGE SEX AND DEATH AT CAMP MIASMA



SAT 6 JUN 8:45 PM STATE
FRI 12 JUN 8:30 PM DNT1
SUN 14 JUN 8:30 PM RITZ1

18+

USA | 2026 | 110 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Jane Schoenbrun | Producers: Jeremy Kleiner, Dede Gardner, Caddy Vanasirikul | Cast: Hannah Einbinder, Gillian Anderson, Eva Victor | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Direct from Cannes, Hannah Einbinder and Gillian Anderson electrify in this camp, bloody psychosexual horror from queer maverick Jane Schoenbrun (*I Saw the TV Glow*, SFF 2024).

Horror-obsessed filmmaker Kris (Einbinder) is hired to resurrect an '80s slasher franchise called *Camp Miasma* for the new 'woke' generation. But in order to avoid the derivative trappings of her studio executives, Kris is adamant to cast the star of the original as her film's "final girl", the sultry recluse Billy (Anderson). Kris quips her "primary partner is her work", but as she gets closer to Billy she unlocks the mystery of *Camp Miasma*, bringing forth a violent and revelatory psychosexual climax like no other. Erotic, irreverent and gory, Schoenbrun's latest has the same cinematic flair for synthy nostalgia as their previous cult hits, marking them a modern auteur to be reckoned with.

THE VALLEY



SUN 7 JUN 2:00 PM RITZ1
THU 11 JUN 2:10 PM STATE

ALL AGES

Australia | 2025 | 181 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director: Ian Darling | Screenwriters: Ian Darling, Sally Fryer
Producers: Kate Hodges, Sarah Butler, Mary Macrae,
Ian Darling | Production Company: Shark Island Productions

A meditative cinematic portrait of a place and community, Kangaroo Valley, about two hours south of Sydney. World Premiere directed by Ian Darling (*The Final Quarter*, SFF 2019).

Surrounded by dramatic cliffs and accessed by steep, winding roads that add to the sense of seclusion, this wholly observational documentary skilfully captures the Kangaroo Valley community, from artists to artisans, farmers to builders, council workers to shopkeepers. Many locals spend their working days in quiet solitude, whether milking cows or baking bread. Institutions and traditions, from carnivals to volunteer firefighting, sustain and enrich this rural community, fulfilling a yearning for human contact and a shared belonging. *The Valley*, with its rich visuals and Wiseman-inspired verité approach, delivers an immersive experience that savours the rhythms, tranquillity and timelessness of valley life.

Festival Guest: Ian Darling and members of the film team

YELLOW LETTERS

GELBE BRIEFE



THU 4 JUN 6:00 PM HOC2
THU 11 JUN 8:30 PM STATE
FRI 12 JUN 8:45 PM RITZ5

15+

Germany, France, Türkiye | 2026 | 127 mins | In Turkish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: İlker Çatak | Screenwriters: İlker Çatak, Ayda Meryem Çatak, Enis Köstepen | Producer: Ingo Fliess
Cast: Özgü Namal, Tansu Biçer, Leyla Smyrna Cabas
Australian Distributor: Rialto Distribution

Winner of the Berlinale Golden Bear. A family descends into turmoil after a simple act of disobedience triggers authoritarian persecution. A searing critique of our times.

Celebrated artist couple Derya (Özgü Namal), an actor; and Aziz (Tansu Biçer), a drama professor/playwright; live a happy and fulfilling life in Türkiye. But when Derya refuses a photo op insisted upon by a government official after a performance – the repercussions are severe. Their jobs disappear, they face legal action and they lose their home. In the face of this persecution – and with a daughter to raise – the couple's relationship comes under extreme strain. Oscar-nominated director İlker Çatak (*The Teacher's Lounge*) audaciously shot the film in Germany – with 'Berlin as Ankara' and 'Hamburg as Istanbul' – powerfully showing that threats to civil and artistic freedoms are not limited to certain countries.



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The Blood Countess

**YOU'LL SEE
SOMETHING YOU'VE
NEVER SEEN BEFORE**

FEATURES



Hen

100 SUNSET



**FRI 5 JUN 8:15 PM DNT3
SUN 7 JUN 6:10 PM EV11**

15+

Canada | 2025 | 99 mins | In English and Tibetan with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Kunsang Kyirong | Producers: Joaquin Cardoner, Kristina Wong, Kunsang Kyirong | Cast: Tenzin Kunsel, Sonam Choekyi, Tsering Bawa | Production Company: Migmar Pictures

In this noir-ish drama – a prize-winner at Toronto – a young thief strikes up an unlikely relationship with a mysterious woman in a Tibetan neighbourhood in Toronto.

New to the neighbourhood of Parkdale, introverted Kunsel observes the residents of her apartment complex, 100 Sunset, and occasionally steals from them. She becomes intrigued by Passang, a newly arrived neighbour unhappily married to a much older man, and the two women connect. The backdrop is 'Dukuti', an informal community credit system where members contribute an amount each month with one household taking the collective pot. This windfall tempts Passang to explore a route of escape. An assured debut feature, *100 Sunset* builds a detailed world in which non-professional actors paint a vibrant portrait of a Tibetan community far removed from their land but deeply entrenched in their customs and traditions.

9 TEMPLES TO HEAVEN



**FRI 5 JUN 6:00 PM PALC1
SUN 14 JUN 3:00 PM EV11**

ALL AGES

Thailand, Singapore, France, Norway | 2026 | 135 mins | In Thai with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Sompot Chidgasompongse
Producers: Kissada Kamyoung, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Weijie Lai, Thomas Hakim | Cast: Amara Ramnarong, Surachai Ningsanond, Jirawut Chiwaruck | Sales Agent: Playtime

Produced by Apichatpong Weerasethakul, this serene tale accompanies a family's pilgrimage to nine temples in hopes of healing their ailing mother. Cannes Directors' Fortnight.

After learning that his elderly mother may not have long to live, Sakol sets out on a pilgrimage to nine temples in the hopes of reversing her fate. He gathers his ailing mother, wife, siblings and children for the journey, traveling from temple to temple amid the splendid glory of Thai architecture. Over the course of the day, rituals are performed, prayers are offered and the family bridge their divides, while their matriarch grows increasingly frail. The meditative, beautifully composed fiction debut of Sompot Chidgasompongse, assistant director to Weerasethakul on *Memoria* (SFF 2021), *Cemetery of Splendour* (SFF 2015) and more, *9 Temples to Heaven* is a warm, resonant reflection on faith and family.

THE AMERICAN DREAM LE RÊVE AMÉRICAIN



**THU 4 JUN 6:15 PM HOC5
WED 10 JUN 8:15 PM RITZ3**

15+

France | 2026 | 127 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Anthony Marciano
Producers: Nicolas Duval Adassovsky, Sidonie Dumas, Margaux Marciano | Cast: Jean Pascal Zadi, Raphaël Quenard, Olga Mouak | Sales Agent: Gaumont

In this joyous buddy movie from the producers of *The Intouchables*, two French outsiders brave all obstacles to achieve their dream of breaking into the world of professional basketball.

Based on remarkable true events, *The American Dream* follows two basketball aficionados who come upon a crazy plan: to discover and represent talented French players and ensure their ascendance to the NBA. But Jérémy works in a video store and Bouna is a cleaner at an airport. Without money or connections or even competent English, the pair resolutely set about their ambition. But even as they discover brilliant young players, often from disadvantaged communities, they come to understand that to succeed they have to face the brutal and unsentimental world of professional sport. A feel-good comedy about friendship, ambition and courage, *The American Dream* is as charming as its winning protagonists.

ANIMOL



**THU 4 JUN 8:30 PM EV9
SUN 7 JUN 6:10 PM RITZ3**

18+

UK | 2026 | 92 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Ashley Walters | Screenwriter: Nick Love
Producers: Tom Hawkins, Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor, Nick Love, Ashley Walters | Cast: Tut Nyuot, Vladyslav Baliuk, Stephen Graham | Sales Agent: Bankside Films

Adolescence star Ashley Walters refreshes the prison genre with his tense and tender directorial debut, featuring Stephen Graham. FIPRESCI Prize for Best Film, Berlinale 2026.

Inside a British young offender institution, Troy (Tut Nyuot) is plunged into a world governed by gangs, shifting loyalties and the threat of violence. Tested from the moment he arrives, he's paired with a menacing cellmate and drawn into the prison's brutal hierarchy, where even small alliances can carry consequences. An increasingly close bond with another inmate offers welcome refuge but also exposes Troy to new danger. As welfare officer Claypole (Graham, *Adolescence*) tries to help Troy with his estranged mother, the young man is pushed towards impossible choices in a place where trust is fragile and survival comes at a cost. Taut, stylish and empathetic, *Animol* rises above the prison drama crowd.

Screens with *How to Hide It*

THE ARAB



THU 4 JUN 8:45 PM DNT2 15+
MON 8 JUN 7:00 PM EV11

Algeria, France | 2026 | 106 mins | In Algerian Arabic, French and Spanish with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director: Malek Bensmail | Screenwriters: Jacques Fieschi, Malek Bensmail | Producers: Hachemi Zertal, Fred Prémel
Cast: Ahmed Benaïssa, Hiam Abbas, Dali Benssalah
Festival Contact: Hachemi Zertal

Albert Camus' classic 1942 novel *The Stranger* is reworked through an expansive postcolonial lens by renowned Algerian filmmaker Malek Bensmail. Rotterdam Film Festival 2026.

The first narrative feature by Algerian documentary filmmaker Bensmail is based on Kamel Daoud's acclaimed 2013 novel *The Meursault Investigation*, which revisits *The Stranger* through the eyes of its Algerian characters. The tale begins in 1996, at the height of the Algerian Civil War. Journalist Kamel meets Maroun, an old man who claims Camus' story was true and he is the brother of the unnamed Arab killed by French man Meursault. A captivating mix of murder mystery, historical drama and family confessional unfolds as flashbacks bring Maroun's life story to light. A splendid cast includes Palestinian great Hiam Abbass (Marcia Roy in *Succession*; *Palestine 36*, SFF 2026) as Haroun's domineering mother.

BEHIND THE PALM TREES

DERRIÈRE LES PALMIERS



WED 3 JUN 6:15 PM EV3 18+
SAT 6 JUN 5:45 PM HOC5

Morocco, France | 2025 | 100 mins | In French and Arabic with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Meryem Benm'Barek | Screenwriters: Meryem Benm'Barek, Fyza Boulifa, Emma Benestan, Agnès Feuvre | Producers: Jean Bréhat, Emma Binet | Cast: Sara Giraudeau, Driss Ramdi, Nadia Kounda | Sales Agent: Pyramide International

Cannes award-winning filmmaker Meryem Benm'Barek (*Sofia*, 2018) charts the risky affair of an opportunistic Moroccan man and a wealthy French woman (Sara Giraudeau, *The Bureau*).

Aspiring architect Mehdi (Driss Ramdi) wants more from life than eventually taking over his father's construction company. While seemingly on a path to marry devoted girlfriend Selma, Mehdi succumbs to the attractions of Marie (Giraudeau), the aimless 40-ish daughter of wealthy French parents who own a luxury home in the kasbah. With a sharp eye for class divisions and colonial legacies that continue to play a role in Moroccan society, Benm'Barek paints a compelling portrait of moral decay as Mehdi attempts to secure his future by manipulating the women in his life. It's beautifully shot in new and old Tangier, and French acting royalty Carole Bouquet has a telling role as Marie's reptilian mother.

BLACK RABBIT, WHITE RABBIT



THU 11 JUN 6:00 PM EV3 15+
SAT 13 JUN 8:15 PM PALC1

Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates | 2025 | 139 mins
In Tajik, Persian and Russian with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director: Shahram Mokri | Screenwriters: Nasim Ahmadpour, Shahram Mokri | Producer: Negar Eskandarfar | Cast: Babak Karimi, Hasti Mohammadi, Kibriyo Dilyobova | Festival Contact: DreamLab Films

A car accident. A prop gun. And an aspiring actress. Three dreamlike stories collide in this meta-narrative from Iranian filmmaker Shahram Mokri (*Fish & Cat*, SFF 2014).

Chekhov's famous dramatic adage – if a gun appears, it must be fired – sets the scene for Shahram Mokri's audacious latest, set in Tajikistan and replete with his hallmark virtuosic long takes, wry humour and interlinking narratives. A wealthy wife, wrapped in bandages from a car accident, starts to suspect her husband of foul play. On the set of a remake of a classic Iranian film, an experienced armorer fears the prop gun might be real. At an acting audition, a young woman pulls a rabbit out of a hat. These seemingly unrelated stories combine into a playfully intriguing whole, with a healthy dose of magical realism and meta-textuality. Selected for the Official Competition at BFI London Film Festival.

THE BLOOD COUNTESS

DIE BLUTGRÄFIN



WED 3 JUN 8:30 PM DNT1 18+
FRI 5 JUN 6:15 PM EV5

Luxembourg, Germany, Austria | 2026 | 119 mins
In German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Ulrike Ottinger | Screenwriters: Elfriede Jelinek, Ulrike Ottinger | Producers: Alexander Dumreicher- Ivanceanu, Bady Minck, Bettina Brokemper | Cast: Isabelle Huppert, Birgit Minichmayr, Thomas Schubert | Sales Agent: Magnify

Decadence and depravity rule in this vampire delight starring Isabelle Huppert from director Ulrike Ottinger and writer Elfriede Jelinek (*The Piano Teacher*). Berlinale 2026.

Exquisitely draped in tightly cinched, scarlet couture, with trusty pet bat in tow, the Blood Countess (Huppert) re-emerges in modern Vienna after decades of lying dormant. Searching for an ancient text that could cause her demise, she unleashes a bloodthirsty reign of terror on the majestic streets of the city, where she's both revered and reviled. A long-awaited passion project from avant-garde German auteur Ulrike Ottinger and Nobel laureate Elfriede Jelinek, *The Blood Countess* is a sultry, slyly irreverent treat for devotees of out-there high camp and big artistic swings. It's a bold, gloriously staged revival of the legend of Countess Elizabeth Báthory, brilliantly embodied by a fierce and fabulous Huppert.

BODY BLOW



WED 10 JUN 6:15 PM EV5 18+
SAT 13 JUN 9:15 PM DNT1

Australia | 2025 | 100 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Dean Francis | Producers: Dean Francis, Ulysses Oliver, Ben Ferris, Timothy May
Cast: Tim Pocock, Chris Haywood, Paul Capsis | Australian Distributor: Screen Inc.

A cop goes undercover in Sydney's neon-lit gay nightlife, but danger lurks when he falls for a seductive bartender. A slick erotic thriller featuring Paul Capsis (*Head On*).

Disgraced cop Aiden (Tim Pocock) is sent deep undercover into Sydney's pulsing gay nightlife – a world of neon haze, sweat and shifting loyalties. There he meets Cody (Tom Rodgers), a younger bartender whose charm quickly complicates his mission. But Cody answers to Fat Frankie, a commanding drag queen, brought fabulously to life by Paul Capsis, who pulls Aiden into a web of crime and danger. The film also features an unforgettable performance from Sacha Horler (*The Dressmaker*). Director Dean Francis (*Drown*) delivers a bold, stylish film with impressive visuals, charged performances and a moody energy that gives this erotic thriller a raw edge.

Festival Guest: Dean Francis and members of the film team

BOSS CAT



SUN 7 JUN 5:00 PM STATE 18+
MON 8 JUN 2:00 PM HOC5

Australia | 2026 | 100 mins | In English
World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Genevieve Clay-Smith | Producers: Deanne Weir, Michele Tumure-Salleo, Dianna La Grassa, Eleanor Winkler | Cast: Olivia Hargroder, Penny Downie, Julia Savage | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

A rousing World Premiere about family, friendship and the power of krumping. A heartwarming Sydney production made with an inclusive cast and crew from Bus Stop Films.

Twenty-three-year-old Sonja (Olivia Hargroder) lives with Trisomy 21 (Down syndrome) and must fight for her independence following the tragic loss of her mother. Distant grandmother, Doris (Penny Downie, *The Crown*), becomes the guardian to Sonja and her younger sister, Emma (Julia Savage, *Blaze*, SFF 2023). But when Doris tries to sell the family home and uproot their lives, Sonja defends her right to her home, lifestyle, friends and boyfriend, Michael (Chris Bunton, *Nude Tuesday*, SFF 2022). Inspired by her new friend Hakim (Elijah Williams), Sonja stands up to Doris by expressing herself through krumping, an energetic dance style that releases frustration. A stirring debut about individuality and independence.

Festival Guests: Genevieve Clay-Smith and members of the film team

THE DEATH OF ROBIN HOOD



FRI 12 JUN 8:00 PM HOC4 18+
SAT 13 JUN 4:15 PM RITZ1

USA | 2026 | 123 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Michael Sarnoski | Producers: Aaron Ryder, Andrew Swett, Alexander Black, Hugh Jackman
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Jodie Comer, Bill Skarsgård
Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

A superb Hugh Jackman stars alongside Jodie Comer in this radical and brutal reimagining of the Robin Hood tale in which he's anything but a hero. Directed by Michael Sarnoski (*Pig*).

Opening with scenes of shocking violence, much of it perpetrated by Robin Hood (Jackman) himself, the film stunningly immerses us into a time of enmity and carnage. Grizzled and having inflicted and endured much bloodshed, Robin enters a battle in which the odds are very much against him and he does not expect to survive. But he does, barely, and ends up in a remote abbey in the care of a kindly nun (Jodie Comer), where he strikes up something of a friendship with a leper (Murray Bartlett), and takes on the role of protective father figure to an orphaned young girl. Together this disparate group form a makeshift family, as Robin contemplates his brutal past and discovers a route to salvation.

DON'T TELL MOTHER

AMMANGE HAELBEDA



SAT 6 JUN 6:15 PM EV9 18+
SUN 7 JUN 4:10 PM RITZ5

India, Australia | 2025 | 89 mins | In Kannada with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Anoop Lokkur | Producers: Mikayla Henke, Matthew Jenkins, Anoop Lokkur | Cast: Siddarth Swaroop, Aishwarya Dinesh, Anirudh P. Keserker
Festival Contact: Anoop Lokkur

Australian filmmaker Anoop Lokkur draws on personal memories for this delicate drama about family life in 1990s Bangalore (now Bengaluru). Busan International Film Festival 2025.

Jurassic Park is in cinemas, smartphones don't exist, and VHS rules at home. Anoop Lokkur's outstanding feature debut offers a rare and rewarding glimpse into middle-class life in India, 1993. Against this backdrop, Lokkur has created anything but a simple nostalgia piece. Instead, he balances warmth and tenderness with sharp social critique as we observe the rhythms of everyday life for parents Lakshmi and Raju, and their primary school-age sons Adi and Aakash. Like a polaroid developing before our eyes, this finely wrought drama reveals its complexity and rings achingly true at every turn. First-time child actors Siddarth Swaroop and Anirudh P. Keserker are simply amazing as the brothers.

Festival Guest: Anoop Lokkur

EL SETT



TUE 9 JUN 8:00 PM EV4 **ALL AGES**
SAT 13 JUN 5:15 PM EV4

Egypt, Saudi Arabia | 2025 | 162 mins | In Arabic with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Marwan Hamed | Screenwriter: Ahmed Mourad
Producers: Ahmed Badawy, Tamer Morsi, Mohamed Hefzy
Cast: Mona Zaki, Mohamed Farrag, Sayed Ragab | Sales Agent: MAD Solutions

Legendary Egyptian singer Umm Kulthum's life is brought lavishly to the big screen in this epic telling – from her humble childhood to dominating the world stage.

Revered throughout the Arab world and beyond, Umm Kulthum began her career performing religious songs as a child, disguised as a boy, at events she was taken to by her protective father. When her talent was eventually recognised, she moved to Cairo, where the big city customs shocked and success eluded her. But by constantly defying expectations and transcending societal constraints, while displaying incredible business savvy, Umm Kulthum developed a following astonishing in size and fervour. Director Marwan Hamed (*The Yacoubian Building*, SFF 2007) paints a complex portrait of the icon, played deftly by Mona Zaki, as she deals with fame, wealth, romance and politics in this dazzling biopic.

FIRST LIGHT



SUN 7 JUN 4:45 PM SOH **15+**
TUE 9 JUN 8:45 PM DNT1

Philippines, Australia | 2025 | 118 mins | In Tagalog with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter: James J. Robinson
Producers: Gabrielle Pearson, Jane Pe Aguirre, Christelle Lou Dychangco | Cast: Ruby Ruiz, Soliman Cruz, Kare Adea | Australian Distributor: Bonsai Films

A nun's suspicion of foul play in her community sparks a crisis of faith in this transcendent debut from Filipino-Australian James J. Robinson.

Sister Yolanda (Ruby Ruiz) leads a peaceful, pious life in a mountainous convent in northern Luzon. Lending her services to the local hospital, she acts as a spiritual balm to the sick and dying. Reading a young man his last rites following a tragic construction accident, she begins to suspect foul play. Uncovering a trail of corruption that implicates both the community's wealthy elite as well as her treasured Church, Sister Yolanda is left in a challenging moral quandary, calling her to act. Winning over audiences at MIFF (Best Australian Director Award) and Rotterdam, and shot in masterful, painterly tableaux that showcase Robinson's background in photography, *First Light* announces the arrival of an exciting new directorial talent.

Festival Guests: James J. Robinson and Ruby Ruiz

ERUPCJA



FRI 5 JUN 8:20 PM DNT1 **15+**
SAT 6 JUN 6:30 PM EV4
SAT 13 JUN 7:00 PM RITZ5

USA, Poland | 2025 | 71 mins | In English and Polish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Pete Ohs | Screenwriters: Pete Ohs, Charli xcx, Lena Góra, Jeremy O. Harris, Will Madden | Producers: Pete Ohs, Charli xcx, Luke Arreguin, Jeremy O. Harris, Josh Godfrey | Cast: Charli xcx, Lena Góra, Will Madden
Australian Distributor: Icon Film Distribution

Charli xcx gives an impressively raw and real performance in this tale of messy modern relationships, following a couple's getaway to Warsaw gone awry. Toronto 2025.

When her boyfriend Rob whisks her away to Warsaw, Bethany (Charli xcx) suspects he's about to propose. He's perfectly nice but is that enough? Uncertain, Bethany abandons Rob's carefully laid itinerary and seeks out old friend/flame Nel (Lena Góra), a Polish florist. The pair share an explosive past – every time they meet, a volcano erupts somewhere in the world. Shot on the fly during Brat summer and written in collaboration between director Pete Ohs and the lead cast, *Erupcja* has an irresistibly spontaneous energy. Amplified by the star power of Charli xcx, who brings her party-girl persona and a convincing, stripped-back naturalism to the role, it's a relatably chaotic study of disrupted destiny.

Screens with *Party Tricks*

FLIES
MOSCAS

SUN 7 JUN 8:15 PM EV11 **15+**
FRI 12 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ5

Mexico, Spain | 2026 | 99 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Fernando Eimbcke | Screenwriters: Vanesa Garnica, Fernando Eimbcke | Producers: Eréndira Núñez Larios, Michel Franco, Fernando Eimbcke | Cast: Teresita Sánchez, Bastian Escobar, Hugo Ramírez | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

After renting out a room in her home to fund medical expenses, Olga is horrified to find her space infested by an unexpected pest: her tenant's nine-year-old son. Berlinale 2026.

One year on from his fourth feature, acclaimed Mexican writer-director Fernando Eimbcke (*Olmo*, SFF 2025) returns with this amusing black and white tale of a pair of unlikely housemates. When Olga, an older woman without friends or close relationships, sources much needed income by renting out a room in her flat, the tenant sneaks in his nine-year-old son, Cristian. Soon Olga's carefully controlled world begins to shift and a fondness grows. Teresa Sánchez (*Prayers for the Stolen*, SFF 2021) stars as the moody final boss in the gamified day-to-day of her energetic cohabitant, played by newcomer Bastian Escobar. This tender film sees Eimbcke play to his strengths, delivering some of his strongest catharsis yet.

EVERYTIME



SUN 7 JUN 1:45 PM RITZ5 **18+**
SAT 13 JUN 6:30 PM DNT3

Austria, Germany | 2026 | 119 mins | In German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Sandra Wollner | Producer: David Bohun | Cast: Birgit Minichmayr, Lotte Shirin Keiling, Tristan López | Sales Agent: Charades

Direct from Cannes. A mother, daughter and a teen boy reckon with the aftershock of a tragedy in Sandra Wollner's tremendous, intriguing drama, set between Berlin and Tenerife.

Everytime is the kind of film that stuns you with the ingenuity of its craft – and resonates with pure emotion. Jessie, her mum Ella (Birgit Minichmayr, *The Blood Countess*, SFF 2026) and young sister Melli are about to leave Berlin and head on holiday to Tenerife when tragedy strikes. A year on, the pain remains acute as Ella, Melli and Jessie's boyfriend Lux try to go about their lives. On an impulse, Ella decides to rebook their ill-fated trip, and the trio head to Tenerife. Once there, past and present begin to overlap in mysterious, powerful ways under the shimmering sun and sea. Writer-director Wollner crafts a phenomenal psychological drama, both dreamlike and viscerally real.

THE FOX



THU 4 JUN 6:00 PM SOH **18+**
SAT 6 JUN 5:15 PM HOC4
SUN 7 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ1

Australia | 2025 | 90 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Dario Russo | Producers: Kristina Ceyton, Samantha Jennings, Carly Maple | Cast: Jai Courtney, Emily Browning, Olivia Colman | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Jai Courtney and Emily Browning star alongside Olivia Colman as a talking fox and Sam Neill as a magpie in this absurdly comic Australian folktale from Dario Russo (*Danger 5*). SXSW 2026.

Jai Courtney (*Dangerous Animals*, SFF 2025) stars as Nick, a small-town, himbo fox catcher and heir to a large estate. But his personal life is a mess – his fiancée, Kori (Browning, *Sleeping Beauty*, SFF 2011), is caught sleeping with her boss, Derek (Damon Herriman, *Together*, SFF 2025), who is the husband of her best friend Diana (Claudia Doumit, *The Boys*). This entangled foursome of adultery and toxic relationships gets upended when Nick catches a mysterious Fox (voiced by Colman) who promises him the perfect wife in exchange for freedom. Nick accepts the Fox's proposal but soon gets more than he bargained for. A devilish folktale made with remarkable animatronic puppetry for the titular Fox and Magpie (Neill).

Screens with *The Worm*

Festival Guests: Dario Russo and members of the film team

FILIPIÑANA



SUN 7 JUN 8:10 PM EV5 **18+**
THU 11 JUN 8:15 PM DNT3

Singapore, UK, Philippines, France, Netherlands 2026 | 100 mins | In Filipino, English and Iloko with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Rafael Manuel | Producers: Jeremy Chua, Alex Polunin, Bianca Balbuena, Bradley Liew, Nadia Turincev, Omar El Kadi, Rafael Manuel
Cast: Jorybell Agoto, Carmen Castellanos, Teroy Guzman
Sales Agent: Magnify

A young woman enters into the eerily pristine world of an elite Filipino golf resort in this visually stunning, Sundance award-winning debut feature with bite.

Seventeen-year-old Isabel is a 'tee girl' at a lush country club outside Manila, ensuring golf balls are always perfectly lined up for the club's elite guests. The immaculate grounds and dutiful staff seem utterly alien from Isabel's home in rural Ilocos, as she observes the resort's goings-on with intense curiosity. Her attention is particularly drawn to Dr. Palanca, the club's eccentric president. With the entrancing pace of a hot summer's day, a mesmerisingly obsessive control of visual language and a sharp eye for social critique, *Filipiñana* is one of the year's most exciting debuts from director Rafael Manuel, a mentee of filmmaker Jia Zhangke. Winner, Sundance Special Jury Award for Creative Vision.

FRENCH GIRLS



WED 10 JUN 7:15 PM AGNSW **15+**
FRI 12 JUN 6:30 PM EV4
SUN 14 JUN 1:45 PM DNT1

Australia | 2026 | 83 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Hyun Lee | Producers: Georgia Noe, Hyun Lee | Cast: Mia Kidis, Luca Blasonato, Nash Edgerton
Festival Contact: Georgia Noe

A young woman enters the absurd world of modelling in this Sydney microbudget marvel. The impressive debut feature of Hyun Lee.

Mia (Mia Kidis) is drifting through life working on construction sites when she's scouted by a Sydney model agent. Suddenly, she's making more money than ever while working less – something her boyfriend loves to point out. Mia quietly observes this strange new world of modelling with deep uncertainty. Is this really the life she wants? With one curious turn after another, she finds herself in trouble with the law. Full of insouciance, familiar local talent and gorgeously shot by cinematographer Dimitri Zaunders (*The Golden Spurtle*, SFF 2025), *French Girls* is an irresistibly charming, refreshingly perceptive take on societal representations of femininity and the disappointing realities of labour.

Screens with *That Which Does Not Exist Does Not Exist* (14 June only)

Festival Guests: Hyun Lee and members of the film team

GAIL DAUGHTRY AND THE CELEBRITY SEX PASS



FRI 5 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ1 18+
SAT 6 JUN 8:30 PM EV4
MON 8 JUN 6:15 PM EV9

USA | 2025 | 93 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
 Director: David Wain | Screenwriters: Ken Marino, David Wain | Producers: Anthony Bregman, Peter Cron, Ken Marino, David Wain, Crystine Zhang, Charles Zhong
 Cast: Zoey Deutch, Jon Hamm, John Slattery | Australian Distributor: Sony Pictures Releasing

Zoey Deutch stars alongside a stacked comedic ensemble as a hairdresser on a quest to sleep with her celebrity sex pass: Jon Hamm. From the creators of *Wet Hot American Summer*.

Small-town sweetheart Gail Daughtry (Deutch) has the most perfect, humble life she could wish for. With their wedding coming up, Gail and her fiancée, Tom (Michael Cassidy), jokingly establish their celebrity sex passes – the one celebrity each can sleep with in wedlock. But when Tom actually sleeps with his, Gail has to get even by sleeping with her dreamboat: Jon Hamm of *Mad Men* fame. With bestie Otto (Miles Gutierrez-Riley) in tow, the wide-eyed pair go on an epic and zany escapade across Los Angeles, unaware they've made enemies with dangerous mobsters along the way. Cameos are aplenty in this loony farce, including John Slattery, Joe Lo Truglio and Sabrina Impacciatore (*White Lotus*), just to name a few!

THE GOOD BOY



SAT 6 JUN 8:15 PM RITZ5 18+
TUE 9 JUN 6:30 PM HOC5
THU 11 JUN 6:00 PM DNT3

Poland, UK | 2025 | 110 mins | In English
 Director: Jan Komasa | Screenwriters: Bartek Bartosik, Naqqash Khalid | Producers: Jeremy Thomas, Ewa Plaskowska, Jerzy Skolimowski | Cast: Stephen Graham, Andrea Riseborough, Anson Boon | Australian Distributor: Kismet Movies

Stephen Graham and Andrea Riseborough star as a couple who kidnap a young delinquent with the aim of training him to become a 'good boy'. Toronto and BFI London 2025.

In this thriller from Polish Oscar nominee Jan Komasa (*Corpus Christi*), Tommy (Anson Boon), 19, lives a delinquent lifestyle, going on benders and hooking up. One night he is kidnapped and wakes up chained in the basement of wealthy family, Chris (Graham), wife Kathryn (Riseborough), and son, Jonathan (Kit Rakusen). Under the strict control of Chris, Tommy is punished if he misbehaves and can only eat at the dinner table if he's a 'good boy'. But as Tommy learns more about his captors, instead of dissenting he learns to assimilate – and feels his collar loosen. Produced by legends Jeremy Thomas (*Rabbit-Proof Fence*) and Jerzy Skolimowski (*EO*), *The Good Boy* has the twisted psychological spirit of the Greek New Wave.

HEART OF LIGHT – ELEVEN SONGS FOR FIJI



TUE 9 JUN 8:10 PM PALC1 15+
SAT 13 JUN 3:15 PM EV3

Germany, France | 2026 | 166 mins | In English, Fijian and German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Cynthia Beatt | Producers: Cynthia Beatt, Philippe Avril | Cast: Tilda Swinton, Talei Draunibaka, Sereima Divavani | Festival Contact: Pascale Ramonda

Tilda Swinton stars in this entrancing speculative autobiography about a British woman returning to her cherished childhood home in Fiji. Rotterdam International Film Festival 2026.

Documentary, fiction, memoir and ethnographic study are combined to striking effect in Tilda Swinton's fourth collaboration with the fascinatingly infrequent filmmaker Cynthia Beatt. In just her seventh project since 1979, Beatt draws from her own life story to tell the tale of Ioana (Swinton), who grew up in Fiji as the daughter of privileged British parents and has now returned to the place she still feels deeply connected to. As Iona's voice-over narration broadens from recollections of her youth to ruminations on how Fiji's colonial past has shaped its contemporary social, political and spiritual landscape, the film takes us to the liminal place between the mist of nostalgia and the clear light of day.

HEN

KOTA



SUN 7 JUN 2:30 PM HOC5 15+
MON 8 JUN 2:30 PM SLNSW
TUE 9 JUN 4:10 PM STATE

Greece, Germany, Hungary | 2025 | 96 mins | In Greek with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director: György Pálfi | Screenwriters: György Pálfi, Zsófia Ruttkay | Producers: Thanassis Karathanos, Costas Lambropoulos, Martin Hampel, Giorgos Kiriakos
 Cast: Yannis Kokiasmenos, Maria Diakopanioti, Argyris Pantazaras | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

An amazingly courageous hen is the star of this beguiling survival drama by György Pálfi (*Taxidermia*, 2006; *Final Cut*, SFF 2013). Honourable mention, Toronto Platform 2025.

An animal protagonist to rank alongside the heroes of *Red Dog* and *Babe*, Hen begins life as a black-feathered outcast in an ocean of golden chicks bound for slaughter. Capturing the personality of this creature with a skill that makes us feel like we know exactly what she is thinking, Pálfi charts the funny adventures and hair-raising escapes that lead her to a run-down taverna on the Greek coast. But this is anything but a straightforward 'animal picture'. As the humans around Hen come into focus, Pálfi delivers a sobering study in human nature and a provocative commentary on burning social and political issues. Made without CGI, animatronics or AI, *Hen* is technically brilliant and boldly innovative.

I SEE BUILDINGS FALL LIKE LIGHTNING



SAT 6 JUN 6:00 PM SLNSW 15+
MON 8 JUN 4:30 PM RITZ5

UK | 2026 | 109 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
 Director: Clio Barnard | Screenwriter: Enda Walsh
 Producer: Tracy O'Riordan | Cast: Anthony Boyle, Joe Cole, Jay Lycurgo | Sales Agent: Charades

A buzzy young British cast light up this tale of five childhood friends from Birmingham, now navigating the trials of adulthood. Direct from Cannes Directors' Fortnight.

Rian (Joe Cole, *Skins*, *Peaky Blinders*), Conor (Daryl McCormack, *Good Luck to You, Leo Grande*), Shiv (Lola Petticrew, *Say Nothing*), Pat (Anthony Boyle, *Masters of the Air*) and Oli (Jay Lycurgo, *Steve*) all grew up in the same Birmingham housing estate, now razed to the ground. As adults, their paths have diverged, but the core of their friendship remains. Rian got rich, others struggle to get by, and it feels like the future they hoped for just isn't materialising. Based on the acclaimed novel by Keiran Goddard, with a script co-written by Enda Walsh (*Die, My Love*; *Hunger*, SFF 2008) and director Clio Barnard (*The Arbor*, SFF 2010), this bracing ensemble drama explores friendship, class and the pull of home.

I WANT YOUR SEX




THU 4 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ1 18+
SAT 13 JUN 8:45 PM EV5

USA | 2025 | 90 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
 Director: Gregg Araki | Screenwriters: Karley Sciortino, Gregg Araki | Producers: Gregg Araki, Seth Caplan, Teddy Schwarzman, Michael Heimler, Courtney L. Cunniff, Karley Sciortino | Cast: Olivia Wilde, Cooper Hoffman, Charli xcx | Australian Distributor: VVS Films

Olivia Wilde, Cooper Hoffman and Charli xcx star in Gregg Araki's enjoyably outrageous, risqué sex comedy, set in the Los Angeles contemporary art scene. Sundance 2026.

Boyish, bushy-tailed Elliot (Hoffman) can't believe his luck when he's hired as the new assistant to provocative, successful contemporary artist Erika Tracy (Wilde). Magnetic, powerful and supremely seductive, Erika is certainly no regular boss, and she soon enlists the eager-to-please Elliot as her sex slave. In way over his head and firmly under Erika's spell, Elliot must somehow also maintain his relationship with girlfriend Minerva (Charli xcx) and his best friend and housemate Apple (Chase Sui Wonders). A sly, darkly funny take on contemporary sexuality from New Queer Cinema legend Gregg Araki (*Mysterious Skin*, *The Doom Generation*), *I Want Your Sex* is a welcome reminder of his singular, subversive voice.

SCREEN NSW





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Olivia Hargroder in *Boss Cat*, *Bus Stop* Films and *WeirAnderson* Films. Photo: Lisa Tomasetti

ISABEL



FRI 5 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ5 15+
SUN 7 JUN 6:30 PM DNT1
TUE 9 JUN 6:00 PM EV3

Brazil, France | 2026 | 85 mins | In English, Portuguese and French with English subtitles
Australian Premiere

Director: Gabe Klinger | Screenwriters: Gabe Klinger, Marina Person | Producers: Rodrigo Teixeira, Frédéric Corvez
 Cast: Marina Person, Caio Horowicz, John Ortiz | Sales Agent: Urban Sales

A São Paulo sommelier opens her own natural wine bar in the third feature from Gabe Klinger (Porto, SFF 2017; Double Play: James Benning and Richard Linklater, SFF 2014). Berlinale 2026.

Bright, talented sommelier Isabel (Marina Person, also co-writer) suffers under an unappreciative boss at a Michelin-starred restaurant in São Paulo. When a wealthy American diner (John Ortiz, *American Fiction*) takes an interest in her sharp nose and penchant for sourcing punk-rock wines, Isabel senses he could be her meal ticket to opening her own place. But is he too good to be true? Klinger's latest is an endearing character study, enriched by the character of the São Paulo fine-dining scene and blessed by the immense likeability, warmth and wit of Marina Person as Isabel. Bursting with the pleasures of food, wine and following your passion, it's a zesty, sensuous ode to second chances and taking risks.

Festival Guest: Gabe Klinger

JULIAN



SAT 6 JUN 2:00 PM DNT3 15+
WED 10 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ3

Belgium, Netherlands | 2025 | 91 mins | In French, English and Dutch with English subtitles
Australian Premiere

Director: Cato Kusters | Screenwriters: Angelo Tijssens, Cato Kusters | Producers: Michiel Dhont, Lukas Dhont
 Cast: Nina Meurisse, Laurence Roothoof | Sales Agent: The Match Factory

Two women, deeply in love, set out to wed in the 22 countries where same-sex marriage is legal in this poignant, sensitively directed drama, based on a true story.

After catching each other's eye at a concert, Fleur and Julian fall madly in love. When Julian soon proposes, Fleur, a journalist, devises an ambitious plan to get married in all the countries where they, as two women, are legally allowed. From Brussels to New York, each ceremony becomes a jubilant act of optimism and a defiant protest against inequality – until a devastating revelation painfully interrupts their plans. Based on Fleur Pierets' 2023 memoir *Julian* and produced by Lukas Dhont (*Close*, Sydney Film Prize 2022), Cato Kusters' debut feature is an emphatic declaration of queer love, directed with immense sensitivity. Selected for Toronto and winner of five Flemish Film Awards, including Best Film.

LATE FAME



FRI 5 JUN 6:15 PM HOC4 15+
SAT 6 JUN 8:30 PM SOH

USA | 2025 | 97 mins | In English | **Australian Premiere**
 Director: Kent Jones | Screenwriter: Samy Burch | Producers: Pamela Koffler, Christine Vachon | Cast: Willem Dafoe, Greta Lee, Edmund Donovan | Australian Distributor: Transmission Films

Former poet, now postman, Ed (Willem Dafoe) has his work rediscovered by a group of NYC poseurs in this clever and engrossing film, also starring Greta Lee. Venice, NYFF 2025.

As Andy Warhol once said: "in the future, everyone will be famous for 15 minutes." This much is true for retired poet Ed (Dafoe), who becomes the man of the hour for a group of would-be beatniks when they unearth his long-forgotten poems. While Ed is wary of the sudden acclaim, he chooses to indulge his admirers with stories of the literary yesteryear. Things quickly unravel when the boys club is unsettled by the fabulous Gloria (an unrecognisable Greta Lee, *Past Lives*, SFF 2023) in a scene-stealing performance. Directed by Kent Jones, with a screenplay by Samy Burch (*May December*, SFF 2023), *Late Fame* is a must for anyone who's ever read a poem and thought: I could do that.

THE LONELIEST MAN IN TOWN



THU 4 JUN 6:15 PM PNORT3 15+
SAT 13 JUN 2:00 PM SLNSW

Austria | 2026 | 86 mins | In German with English subtitles | **Australian Premiere**
 Directors, Producers: Tizza Covi, Rainer Frimmel
 Screenwriter: Tizza Covi | Cast: Alois Koch, Brigitte Meduna, Alfred Blechinger | Sales Agent: Be For Films

Legendary Austrian bluesman Al Cook stars in this deadpan docufiction delight about an ageing musician whose home is marked for demolition. Berlinale Competition 2026.

One of the big crowdpleasers at the Berlinale was this love letter to a long-gone analogue era that still exists in odd and fascinating little places. One such outpost is the memory and memorabilia-filled apartment of 80-year-old Alois Koch (stage name Al Cook), who has lived, loved and played the blues for 60 years. With his home about to be demolished by unscrupulous developers, Alois decides to make a long-held dream come true. The line between documentary and fiction blurs as Alois navigates upheaval in a laid-back groove that's all his own. The minimalist approach of Austrian filmmaking duo Tizza Covi and Rainer Frimmel (*Mister Universo*, SFF 2017) delivers maximum musical and emotional reward.

LOST LAND

HARÀ WATAN



FRI 5 JUN 10:00 AM STATE 15+
SAT 6 JUN 3:40 PM DNT2

Japan, France, Malaysia, Germany | 2025 | 99 mins | In Rohingya with English subtitles | **Australian Premiere**
 Director, Screenwriter: Akio Fujimoto | Producer: Kazutaka Watanabe | Cast: Shomira Rias Uddin, Muhammad Shofik Rias Uddin | Sales Agent: Rediance

This Venice award winner is the first-ever Rohingya-language feature, following two young siblings on a perilous journey to Malaysia to reunite with their scattered family.

Nine-year-old Somira and her four-year-old little brother Shafi set out from a Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh hoping to find their way to Malaysia, where their uncle has settled. What begins as a journey by boat soon becomes something far scarier when the children are separated from the group and left to navigate unfamiliar terrain, with only each other to rely on. Director Akio Fujimoto keeps close to the children's perspective, allowing moments of play, confusion and tenderness to sit alongside the fear and uncertainty of displacement. Made with a largely non-professional cast of over 200 Rohingya participants, *Lost Land* is a visceral, humane story of survival and the search for somewhere to call home.

Festival Guest: Akio Fujimoto

MAMA



SUN 7 JUN 7:20 PM HOC5 15+
SUN 14 JUN 6:45 PM RITZ5

Israel, Poland | 2025 | 93 mins | In Polish and Hebrew with English subtitles | **Australian Premiere**
 Director, Screenwriter: Or Sinai | Producer: Adi Bar Yossef
 Cast: Evgenia Dodina, Arkadiusz Jakubik, Katarzyna Lubik
 Sales Agent: Intramovies

Or Sinai's debut feature centres on a migrant housekeeper in Israel who is confronted by changing family dynamics on a rare visit to her home in Poland. Cannes, Toronto 2025.

Inspired by stories told to writer-director Or Sinai by a Ukrainian housekeeper that once worked for her parents, *Mama* highlights the significant 21st century trend of Eastern European women moving to the West for work. Evgenia Dodina stars as Mila, a pragmatist who supports her family back home in Poland – her husband Antek and her young adult daughter Kasia, so she can attend university and pursue an independent life. "'Don't make the same mistakes as me,'" she tells Kasia. Sinai's adroit screenplay combines emotional honesty with tender compassion, as Mila returns home to realise her roles as wife and mother have changed irrevocably in her long absence. The result is a compelling drama about love, pride and sacrifice.

MASTER

MĀSTĀRA



THU 4 JUN 8:45 PM EV3 15+
MON 8 JUN 1:45 PM DNT2

Bangladesh | 2026 | 126 mins | In Bengali with English subtitles | **Australian Premiere**
 Director, Producer: Rezwan Shahriar Sumit | Screenwriters: Rezwan Shahriar Sumit, Sabbir Hossain Shovon
 Cast: Nasir Uddin Khan, Azmeri Haque Badhon, Zakia Bari Mamo | Festival Contact: Pascale Ramonda

A smalltown elected official in Bangladesh weighs his values against power and fame in this compelling, political drama. Award winner, International Film Festival Rotterdam 2026.

Jahir (Nasir Uddin Khan) is a noble family man, history teacher and populist candidate of a mayoral election race in the forest village of Mohoganj, Bangladesh. With rousing speeches and rallying cries, advocating for progressive ideals like women's rights and improved education, Jahir is elected. But a proposal for a luxury hotel that will uproot the local slums, sees Jahir's undoing, as he enters a dangerous political game between the people who elected him and his influencers in office. Rezwan Shahriar Sumit's assured sophomore is carefully framed, with bright colour palettes to contrast its sinister undercurrents, steered by brilliant performances from Khan and Azmeri Haque Badhon (*Rehana Maryam Noor*, SFF 2021).

MEMORY OF PRINCESS MUMBI



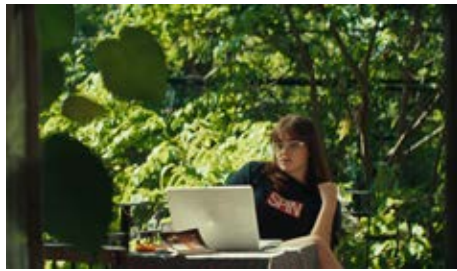
SUN 7 JUN 4:30 PM DNT2 15+
SUN 14 JUN 4:15 PM EV3

Kenya, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia | 2025 | 79 mins
 In English | **Australian Premiere**
 Director, Screenwriter: Damien Hauser | Producers: Damien Hauser, Kaleem Aftab, Shandra Apondi
 Cast: Ibrahim Joseph, Samson Waitthaka, Shandra Apondi
 Australian Distributor: Monument Releasing

A retro-futurist romance from Kenya about filmmaking, beauty and AI. This innovative indie has dazzled audiences across the festival circuit, including Venice, Toronto and London.

In 2093, filmmaker Kuve travels to the African kingdom of Umata, a coastal city made of treetop villages where neo-technologies have been outlawed. Kuve wants to make a documentary about the city's revival since the Great War of the 2070s. There he meets local actress Mumbi. As the two work together, they quarrel over Kuve's fondness for AI as Mumbi shows him the beauty in everyday life. But when the two fall in love, Mumbi reveals she is betrothed to the kingdom's Prince. Director Damien Hauser's deft use of AI to create a fully realised world previously only possible on a multi-million-dollar budget results in a multi-layered meditation on memory, loss and joy – with an emotional core that's hardly artificial. Screens with *Hooyo*

MILE END KICKS



WED 3 JUN 8:20 PM RITZ5 15+
 FRI 12 JUN 8:30 PM EV3
 SUN 14 JUN 6:30 PM DNT1

Canada | 2025 | 111 mins | In English
 Director, Screenwriter: Chandler Levack
 Producers: Matthew Miller, Pat Kiely, Julie Groleau
 Cast: Barbie Ferreira, Devon Bostick, Stanley Simons
 Festival Contact: The Festival Agency

Barbie Ferreira (*Euphoria*) stars in Chandler Levack's (*I Like Movies*, SFF 2023) black romantic comedy about a music journalist self-sabotaging her dream assignment for a new fling.

Almost Famous gets a Canadian, 2011 makeover. Grace Pine (Ferreira), 23, moves to Montreal to pursue her passion project of writing a 33 1/3 book on Alanis Morissette's seminal album *Jagged Little Pill*. But things get a little ironic when Grace procrastinates on her writing in favour of loft parties and garage indie shows. At a concert of local group Bone Patrol, Grace falls hard for the frontman and uses her savvy industry knowledge to become the band's publicist. When distractions get the best of her, Grace soon runs out of cash and excuses. Based on semi-autobiographical experiences, Levack's comic, dark and relatable sophomore effort is a love letter to music criticism and millennial hijinks.

Screens with *Agora*

MORTE CUCINA



SAT 6 JUN 8:15 PM EV3 18+
 SUN 7 JUN 8:40 PM DNT1

Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan, France, Luxembourg 2025 | 121 mins | In English and Thai with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director: Pen-ek Ratanaruang
 Screenwriters: Pen-ek Ratanaruang, Kongdej Jaturanrasmee | Producer: Soros Sukhum
 Cast: Bella Thanatphon Boonsang, Kris Srepoonseth, Nopachai Chaiyanam | Sales Agent: Goodfellas

Revenge is a dish best served with delicious Thai flavours in this tantalising, dark psychological thriller from Thai auteur Pen-ek Ratanaruang (*Last Life in the Universe*).

Sao (Bella Boonsang, excellent) grew up as a Muslim in the south of Thailand. Forced into exile after a traumatic incident, she now works as a waitress at a Bangkok restaurant. Sao is also a talented chef of Thai cuisine. When she one day encounters a customer at the restaurant that she remembers from her past, a man who upended her life, Sao decides to exact revenge – in a most unexpected manner. Beautifully shot by Christopher Doyle (*In the Mood for Love*), with lovingly rendered depictions of the cooking process and the food, the enigmatically constructed *Morte Cucina* is a blackly funny revenge thriller. Or as director Ratanaruang describes it: "It is a sous-vide of a revenge deliciously served. Thai style."

Festival Guest: Pen-ek Ratanaruang

MOUSE



MON 8 JUN 2:00 PM EV3 15+
 SAT 13 JUN 2:00 PM RITZ5

USA | 2026 | 120 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
 Directors: Kelly O'Sullivan, Alex Thompson | Screenwriter: Kelly O'Sullivan | Producers: Bonnie Comley, Stewart F. Lane, Abigail Rose Solomon, Steven A. Jones, Ian Keiser, Alex Wilson, Alex Thompson, Pierce Cravens, Chelsea Krant
 Cast: Sophie Okonedo, Katherine Mallen Kupferer, Tara Mallen | Sales Agent: Visit Films

Beloved by critics and crowds at the Berlinale, this coming-of-age gem follows a shy, queer teen who develops a cathartic bond with a grieving mother (Oscar nominee Sophie Okonedo).

Suburban Arkansas, 2002. Best friends Minnie (Katherine Mallen Kupferer) and Callie (Chloe Coleman) are entering senior year in high school. While their personalities may differ – Minnie is the 'mousey' one and Callie is the popular queen bee – their bond runs deep. In Callie's orbit, Minnie is accepted into her upper-class lifestyle and social clique. But after a tragic accident, Minnie is left rudderless. Ashamed of her own status and fractured relationship with her mother, Barbara (Tara Mallen), Minnie develops a surrogate relationship with Callie's mum, Helen (skilfully played by Okonedo). A humane dramedy from indie duo Kelly O'Sullivan and Alex Thompson, the creative force behind *Ghostlight* (SFF 2024).

Screens with *Souvenir*

THE MUTATION

SA-RANG-EUI-TAN-SAENG



THU 4 JUN 3:15 PM STATE 15+
 SAT 6 JUN 6:15 PM DNT3

South Korea | 2025 | 110 mins | In Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Shin Su-won
 Producers: Francis Chung-keun Lim, Shin Suwon
 Cast: Han Hyun-min, Lee Zoo-young
 Sales Agent: Finecut Co. Ltd.

Two strangers embark on an emotional journey in writer-director Shin Su-won's (*Hommage*, SFF 2022) delicately crafted drama about division and identity in South Korea. Busan 2025.

Se-oh is a native Korean, born Black to Korean parents. Frustrated with a lifetime of having to explain his origins, Se-oh fills an expensive suitcase with a reward and offers it to any willing stranger in exchange for two days of friendship. His offer is taken up by Sora, a lonely artisan mourning the loss of her girlfriend. What follows is an affecting odd couple road movie that rings achingly true at every turn and casts a pointedly critical eye on intolerance – "what is normal, anyway," asks Sora – and the social scourge of loneliness. Shin's direction is beautifully calibrated, with wonderful performances by Lee Zoo-young and Han Hyun-min in his first leading role.

Festival Guests: Shin Su-won and members of the film team

ON THE ROAD

EN EL CAMINO



WED 3 JUN 8:45 PM DNT2 18+
 WED 10 JUN 8:30 PM EV11

Mexico | 2025 | 93 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: David Pablos | Producers: Inna Payán, Luis Salinas, Diego Luna, Enrique Nava | Cast: Victor Miguel Prieto, Osvaldo Sánchez | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

A smouldering romance ignites between two Mexican drug dealers while evading cartels and the law in this gay-love thriller. Venice Queer Lion Winner, produced by Diego Luna.

Down on his luck drifter and sex worker Veneno (Victor Prieto) moves from one pitstop to the next, hustling for a quick buck or pushing stock. Swindled one too many times, he accepts protection from an older truck driver Muñoz (Osvaldo Sanchez) for a cut of his sales. What begins as a transactional relationship in time blossoms into an unlikely romance as they ride the highs of sex and selling drugs on the road. But when an unfortunate altercation goes awry, gears shift into a deadly game of cat and mouse. Award-winning Mexican writer-director David Pablos (*The Chosen Ones*, *Dance of the 41*) delivers a raw, genre blend that is not only dark and gruesome but surprisingly tender and vulnerable.

PALESTINE 36



SUN 7 JUN 4:10 PM SLNSW 18+
 MON 8 JUN 4:00 PM PNORT3
 SAT 13 JUN 6:45 PM DNT1

Palestine, UK, France, Denmark, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Jordan | 2025 | 119 mins | In English and Arabic with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Annemarie Jacir
 Producer: Ossama Bawardi | Cast: Hiam Abbass, Kamel El Basha, Yasmine Al Massri | Australian Distributor: Cultural Media

A sweeping historical epic from award-winning director Annemarie Jacir (*Wajib*, SFF 2017), Palestine's official Oscar entry chronicles the 1936 Arab revolt against British rule.

Set against the 1936-1939 Arab revolt against British rule in Palestine – the longest anti-colonial uprising in the history of the British Empire – Annemarie Jacir's award-winning drama brings an oft-forgotten chapter vividly to life. A strong ensemble, including Jeremy Irons, Hiam Abbass (*Succession*) and Saleh Bakri (*All That's Left Of You*, SFF 2025), stage this complex story on a grand scale, capturing the Palestinian resistance against the increasingly severe and imposing force of the British. Shot in Palestine and Jordan under extremely challenging circumstances, this is a film of potent contemporary resonance. Selected for Toronto, and winner, Best Film at Tokyo International Film Festival.

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PEOPLE AND MEAT

SALAMGWA GOGI



SAT 6 JUN 3:45 PM EV9 **15+**
WED 10 JUN 6:00 PM DNT3

South Korea | 2025 | 106 mins | In Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Yang Jong-hyun | Screenwriter: Lim Na-moo
Producer: Jang So-jung | Cast: Park Keun-hyong, Jang Yong, Ye Su-jeong | Sales Agent: Kt Studiogenie

The fortunes of three poor, lonely senior citizens improve dramatically when they join forces to become the 'dine and dash' gang in Seoul. Tribeca, Busan Film Festivals 2025.

"Am I supposed to be invisible until I die?" says 72-year-old Baek Hwa-jin, who's forever been selling vegetables on the street to put her ungrateful grandson through school. In the same Seoul neighbourhood, 80-year-old Hyeong-jun and 77-year-old U-sik are barely making a won selling cardboard for recycling. Fed up with being ignored and unable to afford meat, the trio decide to visit popular BBQ restaurants and do a runner before the bill arrives. The humour of oldsters committing petty crime for the first time in their law-abiding lives is neatly balanced with poignant reflections on what has brought each to this moment in life. This bittersweet gem tells universal truths and is beautifully performed.

QUEEN AT SEA



SAT 6 JUN 3:00 PM HOC5 **18+**
MON 8 JUN 12:00 PM SLNSW
WED 10 JUN 9:30 AM STATE

UK, USA | 2026 | 121 mins | In English and French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Lance Hammer | Producers: Tristian Golligher, Lance Hammer | Cast: Juliette Binoche, Tom Courtenay, Anna Calder-Marshall | Sales Agent: The Match Factory

Juliette Binoche is exquisite in this bracingly intelligent, raw caregiving drama from Lance Hammer (*Ballast*, SFF 2008). Winner of multiple awards and raves at the Berlinale 2026.

Winner of the Berlinale Silver Bear Jury Prize and Best Supporting Performance (shared by co-stars Tom Courtenay and Anna Calder-Marshall), *Queen at Sea* is a superbly crafted, London-set morality tale that faces the thornier issues of caregiving head on. Amanda (Binoche) and her stepfather Martin (Courtenay) are deeply divided on the issue of care for Amanda's mother, Leslie (Calder-Marshall), who suffers from advanced dementia. Is Leslie still able to give meaningful consent and make critical decisions, and who has the right to make that determination? Earning comparisons to Haneke's *Amour* with its towering performances and unsparingly honest portrayal of ageing, this is one of the year's finest dramas.

RIPPLES IN THE MIST

WŪ HǎI WĒI LǎN



THU 11 JUN 6:00 PM PALC1 **15+**
SUN 14 JUN 2:30 PM PALC1

Australia | 2026 | 119 mins | In English, Cantonese and Mandarin with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Clara Law | Screenwriters: Clara Law, Eddie L.C. Fong | Producers: Eddie L.C. Fong, Clara Law, Cecilia Wong, Samantha Kwan | Production Company: Lunar Films

Clara Law's poetic latest follows two Hong Kong women in exile, tracing grief, friendship and creative renewal across Taiwan and Australia. International Film Festival Rotterdam 2026.

Wai leaves Hong Kong without warning, drifting through Taiwan and reconnecting with past contacts. Ling travels from Hong Kong to Australia after the death of a close friend, and tries to piece together her final moments. Their parallel journeys unfold between these two countries that offer new beginnings. The latest from Macau-born, Australia-based filmmaker Clara Law (*Drifting Petals*, SFF 2021; *Floating Life*, SFF 1996) is a graceful essayistic drama, blending documentary, performance and opera in a distinctly poetic form. Reuniting with collaborator and cinematographer Eddie Fong, Law contrasts the lush beauty of Taiwan with the Australian bush, exploring grief, exile, friendship and the renewing power of art.

ROSE OF NEVADA



THU 4 JUN 6:15 PM EV5 **18+**
WED 10 JUN 6:30 PM HOC5

UK | 2025 | 114 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Mark Jenkin | Screenwriters: Mark Jenkin, Mary Woodvine | Producer: Denzil Monk | Cast: George MacKay, Callum Turner, Francis Magee | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

George MacKay (*The End*, SFF 2025) and Callum Turner (*Eternity*) star as a pair of lost and bewildered fishermen in this beguiling time travel mystery. Venice 2025.

Award-winning, one-of-a-kind Cornish director Mark Jenkin (*Bait*, SFF 2019) returns with this strange seafaring story. Thirty years after vanishing off the Cornish coast, the empty but working Rose of Nevada fishing boat suddenly reappears on the harbour of a forgotten village. To support his struggling family, Nick (MacKay) joins a new crew on board, alongside drifter Liam (Turner). But when Nick and Liam return from their first voyage the year is 1993. The village is thriving and locals believe they are the original crew members. Filmed on his 16mm Bolex wind-up camera, Jenkin delivers a compelling social-realist drama and a beguiling other-worldly mystery in this time travelling cinematic adventure.

ROSEBUSH PRUNING



FRI 5 JUN 8:30 PM RITZ5 **18+**
THU 11 JUN 8:15 PM EV9
FRI 12 JUN 6:00 PM HOC5

Germany, Italy, Spain, UK | 2026 | 97 mins | In English Australian Premiere
Director: Karim Aïnouz | Screenwriter: Efthimis Filippou
Producers: Viola Fügen, Simone Gattoni, Michael Weber, Annamaria Morelli, Vladimir Zemtsov | Cast: Callum Turner, Riley Keough, Elle Fanning | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Elle Fanning, Callum Turner, Riley Keough and Jamie Bell star in Karim Aïnouz's stylish, savage family satire about the coddled existence of four wealthy siblings. Berlinale 2026.

In a luxe Catalan villa, four rich and toxically co-dependent American siblings lounge around obsessing over designer clothes. Their blind father (Tracy Letts) issues odd demands from the sidelines, leaving eldest boy Jack (Bell) to hold the family in place. When he announces he's moving out with his girlfriend (Fanning), it sends the household reeling. As old secrets emerge, including the truth about their mother's (Pamela Anderson) death, the siblings' coddled existence begins to crack. Directed by Aïnouz (*Motel Destino*, SFF 2024) and written by Yorgos Lanthimos collaborator Efthimis Filippou (inspired by Italian classic *Fists in the Pocket*), *Rosebush Pruning* is a delicious satire of privilege and patriarchy.

SACCHARINE



THU 4 JUN 8:45 PM SOH **18+**
TUE 9 JUN 6:10 PM DNT1

Australia | 2026 | 112 mins | In English Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Natalie Erika James
Producers: Anna McLeish, Sarah Shaw, Natalie Erika James
Cast: Midori Francis, Danielle Macdonald, Madeleine Madden
Australian Distributor: Maslow Entertainment

Nothing is sweet in this atmospheric Aussie body horror from Natalie Erika James (*Relic*) about a medical student taking sinister weight-loss pills. Sundance and Berlinale 2026.

When medical student, Hana (Midori Francis, *Grey's Anatomy*), runs into an old friend who has drastically slimmed down since high school, she becomes enticed to take the same weight loss medication. Desperate to gain the adoration of her personal trainer and crush, Alanya (Madeleine Madden, *Mystery Road*), Hana gets wrapped up in her insecurities and addicted to the drug – so much so, she starts making her own pills. But the main ingredient brings ghastly consequences when Hana is haunted by a horrifying and hungry ghost that grows larger while Hana's body grows smaller. James's stylish, genre filmmaking is a timely and biting critique of online consumption and body-centric culture.

Festival Guests: Natalie Erika James and members of the film team

A SAD AND BEAUTIFUL WORLD



SAT 6 JUN 8:00 PM EV5 **15+**
SAT 13 JUN 4:00 PM SLNSW

Lebanon, USA, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Qatar | 2025
109 mins | In Arabic with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Cyril Aris | Producer: Georges Schoucair | Cast: Mounia Akl, Hasan Akil, Julia Kassar | Sales Agent: Paradise City Sales

Cyril Aris' debut narrative feature is an exhilarating love story set against decades of turmoil in Lebanon. Winner of multiple audience awards, including at Venice 2025.

Nino and Yasmina were born a minute apart in a Beirut hospital while bombs fell around them and became close childhood friends before tragic circumstance intervened. When fate throws them together decades later, Nino is an irresistibly charming optimist who owns a rowdy restaurant, while Yasmina is a cautious government consultant. Delightful rom-com shenanigans ensue as Nino pursues Yasmina, but in a place where gunfire, missiles and economic chaos are ever-present both must consider if there is any future for them in Beirut. Aris' film is a beautifully judged mix of romance, humour and stark reality, matched by the immensely appealing performances and magnetic chemistry of Hasan Akil and Mounia Akl.

SOUMSOUM, THE NIGHT OF THE STARS
SOUMSOUM, LA NUIT DES ASTRES

SAT 6 JUN 4:30 PM PALC1 **15+**
THU 11 JUN 8:30 PM EV11

France, Chad | 2026 | 101 mins | In French and Chadian Arabic with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Mahamat-Saleh Haroun | Screenwriters: Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, Laurent Gaudé | Producer: Florence Stern | Cast: Maimouna Miawama, Ériq Ébouaney, Achouackh Abakar Souleymane | Sales Agent: Films Boutique

Chadian master Mahamat-Saleh Haroun (*Lingui*, SFF 2021) utilises stunning landscapes in this magical-realist tale that sees a young woman's visions lead her to freedom. Berlinale 2026.

In the Ennedi desert of Chad, home to stunning mountains and ancient rock art, major climate events have led to devastation and irreversible change. And to make matters worse, there has been a spate of infant deaths, leading the village elders to scapegoat single woman Aya, said to be a witch. Meanwhile, young Kellou, who is in a relationship with a boy whose family will never accept her, shares with Aya her gift for prophetic visions. Going against the villagers' prohibitions, Kellou strikes up a friendship with the beleaguered Aya, and together they challenge the patriarchal oppression of the village. With a mythological quality to its storytelling, *Soumsoum* is a beguiling film by one of African cinema's true greats. Screens with *God Sleeps on Sundays*

STRANGE RIVER

ESTRANY RIU



FRI 5 JUN 8:20 PM EV3 **15+**
SUN 7 JUN 3:45 PM DNT1

Spain, Germany | 2025 | 105 mins | In Catalan and German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Jaume Claret Muxart | Screenwriters: Jaume Claret Muxart, Meritxell Colell | Producers: Xavi Font, Andrea Vázquez | Cast: Jan Monter, Nausicaa Bonnin, Francesco Wenz | Sales Agent: Films Boutique

A queer teenager's life is transformed by an unexpected encounter with a mysterious and alluring boy while on a family trip along the Danube. An entrancing debut from Venice 2025.

Sixteen-year-old Dídac (played magnetically by newcomer Jan Monter) is trapped on summer vacation with his family as they cycle through Germany and Austria, along the Danube. Wishing he was back home with friends instead of bickering with his two brothers, Dídac is soon captivated by the mysterious appearance of an enigmatic boy swimming in the river. Filled with yearning for this ethereal aquatic crush, Dídac's burgeoning feelings begin to disrupt his relationship with his family. Inspired by Catalan director Jaume Claret Muxart's own childhood vacations and shot beautifully on 16mm, *Strange River* is a sensual, queer coming-of-age story bursting with lyricism about the impermanence of youth and first love.

Screens with *Socks*

Festival Guest: Jaume Claret Muxart

STRAWBERRIES

LA MÁS DULCE



WED 3 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ5 **18+**
SAT 13 JUN 6:00 PM PALC1

France, Morocco, Spain, Belgium | 2026 | 103 mins | In Arabic and Spanish with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Laila Marrakchi | Producer: Juliette Schrameck | Cast: Nisrin Erradi, Hajar Graigaa, Hind Braik | Sales Agent: Lucky Number

Strawberry picking turns sour in this rousing Spain-set drama, charting the fate of a group of exploited female Moroccan migrant workers. Direct from Cannes Un Certain Regard.

Hasna (Nisrin Erradi) joins a queue of Moroccan women bound for the strawberry picking season in Andalucía, Spain. What she'd hoped would be fair, honest work turns out to be a hotbed of exploitation. The mostly female migrant workers face harsh conditions, dilapidated lodgings, and most horrifyingly, employers who sexually abuse them. Hasna, a former taekwondo champ who refuses to endure their harassment, forms a tight bond with the other women. Together, they must decide whether to rise up or stay silent to protect their livelihoods. Based on real-life reports, Moroccan director Laila Marrakchi's (*Rock the Casbah*, SFF 2014) *Strawberries* is a realist drama about unacceptable practices and the power of solidarity.

WE ARE ALL STRANGERS

WÖMEN BÜSHI MÖSHÈNG RÈN



SUN 7 JUN 6:30 PM SLNSW **15+**
FRI 12 JUN 7:45 PM EV11

Singapore | 2026 | 157 mins | In English and Mandarin with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Anthony Chen
Cast: Yeo Yann Yann, Koh Jia Ler, Regene Lim
Sales Agent: Paradise City Sales

When new love enters both of their lives, the bond between a father and son is tested in this simmering Singaporean drama from Anthony Chen (*Ilo Ilo*, SFF 2014). Berlinale 2026.

The future is full of potential for 21-year-old Junyang as he finishes his mandatory national service. But his hard-working father, Boon Kiat, worries he's going to squander it if he doesn't start to get serious. New love changes the course of both their lives in this class-conscious, Singapore-set household drama. The final instalment in his thematic 'growing up' trilogy, following the award-winning *Wet Season* and *Ilo Ilo*, Chen's latest once again stars meta-muse, Koh Jia Ler – no longer a boy. As the first-ever Singaporean film to feature in competition at the Berlinale, the quietly epic *We Are All Strangers* is the story of two generations forced to live with their choices – and with each other.

THE WIZARD OF THE KREMLIN

LA MAGE DU KREMLIN



WED 3 JUN 6:30 PM HOC5 **15+**
SUN 7 JUN 3:00 PM RITZ3

France, UK, USA | 2025 | 156 mins | In English
Director: Olivier Assayas | Screenwriters: Emmanuel Carrère, Olivier Assayas | Producers: Olivier Delbosc, Sidonie Dumas
Cast: Paul Dano, Jude Law, Alicia Vikander | Australian Distributor: Rialto Distribution

Paul Dano, Jude Law, Alicia Vikander and Jeffrey Wright star in Olivier Assayas' (*Personal Shopper*, SFF 2016) political thriller about the rise of Vladimir Putin. Venice 2025.

Following the fall of the Soviet Union, Russia in the early '90s was both chaotic and filled with opportunity for the smart and brave. Enter the talented Vadim Baranov (Dano) – first idealistic theatre maker, then reality TV producer and ultimately spin doctor to rising KGB agent, Vladimir Putin (Law, superb). Using his skill for constructing dramatic narratives, Baranov begins to shape the new Russia, partnering with the brutally calculating Putin to manipulate and control the unruly nation. An incisive and brilliantly acted analysis into the accumulation and use of political power – and the delicate line between democracy and authoritarianism – *The Wizard of the Kremlin* is both riveting and timely.

THE WORLD OF LOVE

SE-GYE-UI JU-IN



FRI 12 JUN 12:15 PM STATE **18+**
SAT 13 JUN 6:30 PM EV3
SUN 14 JUN 4:00 PM DNT3

South Korea | 2025 | 119 mins | In Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Yoon Ga-eun | Producers: Kim Se-hun, Jenna Ku | Cast: Seo Su-bin, Chang Hyae-jin, Kim Jeong-sik
Sales Agent: Barunson E&A

Praised by Bong Joon-ho, this acutely observed, critically acclaimed Korean festival and theatrical hit follows a teen girl whose bright exterior hides a difficult past.

The third feature from Yoon Ga-eun, described by Bong Joon-ho as one of the three masters of directing child actors alongside Abbas Kiarostami and Hirokazu Kore-eda, *The World of Love* is a film of complex light and shadow. Lee Joo-in (Seo Su-bin) is an exuberant high-schooler, who enjoys gossiping, taekwondo and community volunteering. When a classmate starts a petition regarding a child sex offender's prison release, it resurfaces painful memories for Joo-in. Waves of anger and hurt begin to permeate her life and relationships. One of the top Korean films of 2025, selected for Toronto and BFI London, *The World of Love* achieves a remarkable balance of humour and pathos in its delicate handling of a traumatic subject.

Festival Guest: Yoon Ga-eun

YESTERDAY ISLAND



SAT 6 JUN 6:00 PM RITZ5 **15+**
MON 8 JUN 4:30 PM HOC5

Australia | 2025 | 92 mins | In English and Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Sam Voutas
Producer: Melanie Ansley | Cast: Ivan Aristeguieta, Florence Noble, Francis Greenslade | Australian Distributor: Screen Inc.

Hapless Amos is tricked onto an island with a time loop where the day never ends. Who can he lure to take his place? Let's start with the ex-wife. A quirky, dark Aussie comedy.

Lured onto an island by an old friend under false pretences, down-and-out writer Amos (Aussie stand-up, Ivan Aristeguieta) ignores a series of red flags before finding himself all alone, stranded on the 'arse end of the world'. As cabin fever sets in, he quickly learns that on this mostly unremarkable stretch of land, today is just like yesterday and tomorrow doesn't exist. In order to escape Amos must discover that his petty grudges might also be his salvation. Shot on location in Victoria and Tasmania and co-starring Florence Noble (*The Paragon*, SFF 2023), expect the unexpected from this quirky and fun new indie comedy. An audience award winner and gentle reminder that no good deed goes unpunished.

Festival Guests: Sam Voutas and members of the film team.

BOXSET

THE KILLINGS AT PARRISH STATION



SUN 7 JUN 3:45 PM EV5 **18+**

Australia | 2026 | 94 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director: Daniel Nettheim | Screenwriters: Ben Jenkins, Catherine Smyth-McMullen, Yolanda Ramke | Producers: Kerrie Mainwaring, Ben Jenkins | Cast: Xavier Samuel, Mia Wasikowska, Heather Mitchell | Production Company: Helium Pictures, Festival Contact: Stan

Bridging past and present, a shocking massacre at a remote research station is investigated by two detectives. Series World Premiere, starring Mia Wasikowska and Xavier Samuel.

In 1987, detectives Georgia Cooke (Wasikowska) and Michael Thorne (Samuel) are called to investigate the bizarre and brutal killings of four scientists at the remote Parrish Research Station. They uncover a complex case involving mania, ritual, and the occult, and Georgia's obsessive truth-seeking spirals, threatening her family, career, and sanity. Thirty seven years later, a chilling new spree of murders pull Georgia (Heather Mitchell) back into this nightmare as she confronts the possibility that the horrors at Parrish Station were never fully buried. Created by Ben Jenkins and directed by prolific film and television director Daniel Nettheim (*The Hunter*).

Festival Guests: Daniel Nettheim and members of the film team



The Tale of Silyan

YOU'LL SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT

You'll see it to believe it when the very best of non-fiction filmmaking from around the world arrives at SFF. The International Documentaries lineup is back with more extraordinary true stories and real-life storytelling that promises to inspire, challenge and transform.

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES



A Child of My Own

32 METERS



SUN 7 JUN 4:00 PM EV11
SUN 14 JUN 2:00 PM DNT3

15+

Türkiye, Iran, Qatar | 2025 | 84 mins | In Turkish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Morteza Atabaki | Producers: Morteza Atabaki, Murat Öneş | Festival Contact: Morteza Atabaki

Women aren't allowed in the local shooting contest in Halime's small Turkish village. So, she creates her own in this bold, hilarious and moving documentary. Hot Docs Festival 2026.

In a small Turkish village, Halime dreams of entering the local shooting contest. There's just one problem: it's reserved for men only. Refusing to accept the rules, Halime teams up with her fearless friend Gönül to launch their own shooting competition for women, challenging generations of tradition and winning over sceptics, including many men, some women, and most importantly the mayor. Director Morteza Atabaki brings us close to these unforgettable women, capturing their determination through candid, often hilarious exchanges with each other, their families and their community. What unfolds is a joyful portrait of resilience that shows how change begins, with courage, humour and an unshakeable belief.

THE AI DOC: OR HOW I BECAME AN APOCALOPTIMIST



SUN 7 JUN 2:00 PM SLNSW
TUE 9 JUN 8:30 PM DNT3

ALL AGES

USA | 2026 | 104 mins | In English
Directors: Daniel Roher, Charlie Tyrell | Producers: Daniel Kwan, Jonathan Wang, Shane Boris, Diane Becker, Ted Tremper | Australian Distributor: Universal Pictures

An AI future seems inevitable. Oscar winner Daniel Roher (Navalny, SFF 2022) and Charlie Tyrell break open all the promise and perils in this illuminating doc. Sundance 2026.

Filmmaker Daniel Roher is about to become a father and begins to question what kind of world awaits his child, as artificial intelligence accelerates at an unprecedented pace. Seeking answers, he builds a studio in his home and invites leading thinkers, engineers and creators shaping AI today. What unfolds is a series of conversations that range from hopeful to truly unsettling, as the full scale of what could lie ahead in an AI-dominated world begins to emerge. Blending interviews with stop motion, animation and illustration, Roher and Charlie Tyrell deliver the most accessible and comprehensive documentary on AI ever made, featuring interviews with over 40 experts.

AMERICAN DOCTOR



TUE 9 JUN 6:30 PM EV9
SAT 13 JUN 2:10 PM DNT1

18+

USA, Palestine, Malaysia, Qatar, Denmark | 2026 | 93 mins | In English and Arabic with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director: Poh Si Teng | Producers: Poh Si Teng, Kristine Barfod, Reem Haddad | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Three American doctors travel to Gaza, risking everything to save lives – in turn exposing the reality of the war and the endurance of human compassion. Sundance 2026.

Three American doctors, each from different backgrounds (Palestinian, Jewish and Zoroastrian), are united by a shared commitment to saving lives. Dr. Thaer Ahmad, Dr. Mark Perlmutter and Dr. Feroze Sidhwa travel to Gaza to work in hospitals under extreme pressure, forced to make impossible decisions with limited resources and damaged infrastructure. *American Doctor* places us inside these spaces, revealing both the devastation of war and the demands of their work. Back in the United States, they speak out publicly, challenging those in power. Director Poh Si Teng delivers a confronting and deeply human film that reveals the horrors of this conflict while holding onto the possibility of compassion through action.

BABY JACKFRUIT BABY GUAVA



MON 8 JUN 1:45 PM PALC1
SAT 13 JUN 4:20 PM DNT3

15+

Vietnam, South Korea | 2026 | 105 mins | In English and Vietnamese with English subtitles
Australian Premiere

Director: Nông Nhật Quang | Producers: Sarah Kang, Trang Đào, Heejung Oh | Sales Agent: Luminalia

A Vietnamese family confront their past, present and imagined future with the impending arrival of baby Guava in this startlingly intimate directorial debut. Hot Docs Festival 2026.

First-time director Nông Nhật Quang turns the camera on his own family in this personal and profoundly moving documentary. Growing up while navigating life in the closet, his sister Mai was his constant support. Now living openly and happily as a gay man in the city, Quang's world shifts when Mai receives a life changing diagnosis. As she prepares for the arrival of her baby, Guava, their conservative mother Cúc struggles to come to terms with it all. Blending raw, present-day moments with photos and diary fragments from the past, the film is a tender, clear eyed portrait of a family confronting their history together, searching for understanding, healing and a way forward. Visions du Réel 2026 Special Jury Award.

BIRDS OF WAR



WED 10 JUN 8:15 PM DNT2 18+
SUN 14 JUN 4:00 PM EV9

UK, Syria, Lebanon | 2026 | 85 mins | In English and Arabic with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors, Screenwriters: Janay Boulos, Abd Alkader Habak
Producers: Sonja Henrici, Janay Boulos, Abd Alkader Habak
Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

This unbelievable love story uses 13 years of personal archives to chart the evolving romance between a Lebanese journalist and a Syrian cameraman. Award winner, Sundance 2026.

During the Battle of Aleppo, Lebanese journalist Janay Boulos works from London, as journalists are banned from entering Syria. Seeking footage, she texts Syrian-based cameraman Abd Alkader Habak. What begins as a professional request soon evolves into a romantic bond. Drawing on their own 13-year archive of texts and voice notes, this sensitive documentary charts Boulos and Habak's love story throughout the many conflicts in the region. We follow their lives through dramatic change, as Boulos becomes dissatisfied with journalism and Habak is forced to face the turmoil of war at home. A moving film about love overcoming distance that also serves as an urgent account of journalism under siege.

Screens with *The Sentinel*

A CHILD OF MY OWN

UN HIJO PROPIO



MON 8 JUN 2:00 PM DNT1 15+
SUN 14 JUN 2:00 PM EV9

Mexico | 2025 | 96 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Maite Alberdi | Screenwriters: Julián Loyola, Esteban Student | Producers: Sandra Godínez Vázquez, Carla González Vargas, Maximiliano Sanguine | Australian Distributor: Netflix

A woman fakes a pregnancy and goes to extreme lengths to sustain the lie in this thrilling new doc from two-time Oscar nominee Maite Alberdi (*The Eternal Memory*, SFF 2023).

In Mexico, Alejandra feels pressure from all sides to have a child. After a chance meeting in a hospital with a pregnant woman who does not want her baby, the two strike a deal that could change both of their lives. Alejandra must now convince everyone around her that she is pregnant over several months, while relying on someone she barely knows to follow through. Alberdi once again proves herself an essential voice in contemporary documentary filmmaking, presenting this unbelievable true story in a multilayered way, moving from a staged retelling of Alejandra's testimony using actors and heightened design, to a more stark exploration of the pressures placed on women and how far one will go to have a child.

CLOSURE



SAT 6 JUN 1:30 PM DNT1 15+
SUN 14 JUN 8:15 PM EV11

Poland, France | 2026 | 108 mins | In Polish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Michał Marczak | Producers: Monika Braid, Rémi Grellety, Karolina Marczak, Michał Marczak, Katarzyna Szczerba | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

One of the top-reviewed documentaries at Sundance, Michał Marczak (*Fuck for Forest*, SFF 2013) delivers a powerfully emotive portrait of a father's search for his missing son.

When his 16-year-old son vanishes without a trace, Daniel refuses to accept the unknown. What follows is an all-consuming search along Poland's Vistula River, where Daniel was last seen, in a custom-built boat equipped with cameras and drones, as he scans the landscape day after day. As weeks stretch into months, the search expands online, tracing fragments of his son's digital footprint for clues. In the hands of Michał Marczak, whose documentary is reminiscent of the best European dramas, this moving film becomes a singular and absorbing experience, placing us directly inside a father's obsession and grief. One of the year's standout documentaries, it is essential viewing on the big screen.

CROCODILE



SUN 7 JUN 1:45 PM EV11 18+
SUN 14 JUN 8:35 PM DNT2

New Zealand, Nigeria | 2026 | 101 mins | In English, Pidgin, Hausa and Yoruba with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Directors, Producers: Pietra Brett Kelly, The Critics
Screenwriter: Pietra Brett Kelly | Festival Contact: Pietra Brett Kelly

The astonishing story behind the Nigerian filmmaking collective The Critics, whose handmade science fiction films have taken the world by storm. Berlinale 2026.

A little more than 10 years ago in Kaduna, Nigeria, a group of children began filming on a father's smart phone. They soon formed the filmmaking collective The Critics. Crafting inventive science fiction movies with homemade green screens and casts of friends and family, their work brims with originality and ambition. As their films spread online, global audiences and figures like J. J. Abrams took notice, lending the support that changed their lives. Directed by The Critics and Pietra Brett Kelly (*A Flickering Truth*, SFF 2016), this vibrant coming-of-age documentary draws us into their creative process and life – and features many scenes from their epic films. A hit at the Berlinale, executive produced by Idris Elba.

THE CYCLE OF LOVE



THU 4 JUN 10:00 AM STATE ALL AGES
FRI 5 JUN 6:30 PM EV9
FRI 12 JUN 6:15 PM PNORT3

UK, USA, Sweden, India | 2026 | 98 mins | In English, Hindi and Pashto with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director: Orlando von Einsiedel | Producers: Harri Grace, Chloe Leland, Emelie Mahanandia von Schedvin, Karl Mahanandia von Schedvin | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

The heart-warming story of a Delhi street artist's attempt to cycle from India to Sweden to reunite with the love of his life, from Oscar-winner Orlando von Einsiedel.

This epic documentary tells an incredible true story of adventure and romance. In Delhi, 1975, young street artist PK Mahanandia meets Lotta, who is visiting from Sweden, and paints her portrait. Certain she is the true love foretold to him by an astrologer in his youth, PK embarks on the mission of his life in 1977 – cycling from India to Sweden to be with her. Award-winning director Orlando von Einsiedel (*Virunga*) tells this rousing story through sumptuous, vivid reenactments and wonderful interviews with PK and Lotta today, 50 years after they first met. To find out if PK makes it or if he and Lotta managed to reconnect, you'll have to see the film. Telluride Film Festival 2025.

DAUGHTERS OF THE FOREST

HIJAS DEL BOSQUE



THU 4 JUN 6:30 PM DNT3 ALL AGES
SAT 13 JUN 4:45 PM EV11

Mexico | 2026 | 95 mins | In Spanish, Zapotec, Tlahuica and Mazatec with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Otilia Portillo Padua | Producers: Paula Arroio Sandoval, Elena Fortes, Otilia Portillo Padua
Festival Contact: Paula Arroio Sandoval

This one-of-a-kind sci-fi documentary follows two mycologists in Mexico working to preserve and share remarkable ancestral mushroom knowledge. Award winner, SXSW 2026.

Eliseete and Julieta, two Indigenous women in Mexico, are mycologists – scientists who study fungi – whose communities have long enjoyed a close relationship with mushrooms, the organism woven into their daily life and belief. The lush forests surrounding them are rich with fungi, and the pair work to protect and pass on the knowledge handed down through generations, while navigating a world where that knowledge is slowly at risk of being lost. At the film's centre is a search for direction, leading to a striking encounter that connects past, present and future. Otilia Portillo Padua delivers a truly distinctive and quietly magical documentary that draws you into this world and reveals the power of mushrooms.



The Cycle of Love



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EVERYBODY TO KENMURE STREET



WED 3 JUN 6:00 PM DNT3
WED 10 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ5

ALL AGES

UK | 2026 | 98 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Felipe Bustos Sierra | Producers: Ciara Barry, Felipe Bustos Sierra | Australian Distributor: Umbrella Entertainment

This Sundance award winner captures the dawn immigration raid that sparked an unprecedented community uprising in Glasgow. Featuring Emma Thompson and Kate Dickie.

On Eid in 2021, Glasgow's spirit of resistance ignites when the Home Office attempts to detain two Sikh men in the country's most diverse neighbourhood. Within minutes, neighbours flood the street, forming a human barrier that grows into an eight-hour standoff. One protester (who wishes to be anonymous, reenacted by Emma Thompson) even lies beneath a police van, halting its departure. Drawing on mobile footage, news coverage and interviews, director Felipe Bustos Sierra places us directly inside this powerful act of solidarity. Winner of the Sundance 2026 Special Jury Award for Civil Resistance, this story now lands with renewed force as communities across the world confront escalating immigration crackdowns.

A FOX UNDER A PINK MOON

ROOBAH VA MAH SOORATI



FRI 5 JUN 6:30 PM DNT2
SUN 14 JUN 6:15 PM EV3

18+

Iran, France, UK, USA, Denmark | 2025 | 77 mins
In Persian, Dari and Turkish with English subtitles
Australian Premiere

Directors: Mehrdad Oskouei, Soraya | Screenwriters: Mehrdad Oskouei, Amir Adibparvar | Producer: Mehrdad Oskouei | Sales Agent: CAT&Docs

Winner of the top prize at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, this unforgettable doc follows 16-year-old Soraya as she risks everything to escape Iran.

Soraya, a young Afghan woman living in Iran, is determined to reach Austria to reunite with her mother. Trapped in a violent marriage, she makes repeated attempts to cross the border, using her mobile phone to document the aftermath of abuse and the constant danger she faces. Despite terrible risk, Soraya manages to find moments of beauty through her striking artwork, brought vividly to life via animated sequences throughout the film. Through Soraya's art, we're introduced to imagined figures – the fox, the pink moon, and many others. Directed remotely by Mehrdad Oskouei with Soraya as co-director, this powerful film is a rare and intimate portrait of resistance, creativity, and survival that demands to be seen.

GIVE ME THE BALL!



SAT 6 JUN 3:45 PM RITZ5
SUN 7 JUN 6:00 PM EV5
THU 11 JUN 6:15 PM DNT1

ALL AGES

USA | 2025 | 102 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Directors: Liz Garbus, Elizabeth Wolff | Producers: Liz Garbus, Elizabeth Wolff, Dominic Crossley-Holland, Dan Cogan, Chris James, Gentry Kirby | Festival Contact: ESPN

The definitive Billie Jean King documentary – revealing her sacrifices and triumphs both off and on the tennis court through interviews and rare archival footage. Sundance 2026.

"Every sport needs a Billie Jean King," Serena Williams declares in this electrifying film. From the outset of her career, King made the fight for equal pay and respect for women in tennis her driving force. That struggle reached its peak in the infamous Battle of the Sexes match, presented here with gripping intensity. Beyond her brilliance on the court, King speaks with striking honesty about hiding her sexuality and confronting relentless misogyny. Powered by a fierce soundtrack and featuring interviews with Elton John, Rosie Casals, Chris Evert and more, this bold, exhilarating portrait of a true pioneer is directed by two-time Academy Award nominee Liz Garbus (*What Happened, Miss Simone?*) and Elizabeth Wolff.

HANGING BY A WIRE



SAT 6 JUN 9:30 AM STATE
THU 11 JUN 8:20 PM DNT1
SUN 14 JUN 6:00 PM EV5

ALL AGES

USA, UK, Pakistan | 2026 | 77 mins | In English, Urdu and Pashto with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director: Mohammed Ali Naqvi | Screenwriters, Producers: Mohammed Ali Naqvi, Bilal Sami | Sales Agent: Universal Pictures

This nail-biting doc follows a desperate rescue attempt when a cable car carrying eight people fails 900 metres above a remote region of Pakistan. Sundance 2026.

High above the picturesque mountains of Battagram in northern Pakistan, a routine journey becomes a terrifying fight for survival when a cable car carrying eight people, including six schoolboys, suddenly fails – leaving them suspended 900 metres in the air. As two of the three cables snap and the last begins to give way, a race-against-time rescue mission unfolds under intense global media scrutiny. Drawing on footage recorded by onlookers, drone imagery and cinematic reconstructions, director Mohammed Ali Naqvi (*The Accused: Damned or Devoted?*) crafts an unforgettable and visually arresting documentary that plays like an adrenaline-fueled thriller, while revealing profound truths about class, inequality and resilience.

THE HISTORY OF CONCRETE



THU 11 JUN 8:30 PM EV5
FRI 12 JUN 6:15 PM DNT1
SAT 13 JUN 6:50 PM RITZ5

15+

USA | 2026 | 101 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: John Wilson | Producers: John Wilson, Clark Filio, Shirel Kozak, Allie Viti | Sales Agent: Visit Films

A hysterical debut and instant classic from the genius behind *How To with John Wilson*. An unexpected meditation on politics, celebrity, religion and urbanism. Sundance 2026.

After attending a workshop on how to make a Hallmark movie, cult documentarian John Wilson sets out to use the same formula to pitch a film about concrete. Following the huge success of his hit HBO show, Wilson can't understand why financiers don't want to back his idea? What starts out as an absurd and novel enterprise derails down many rabbit holes – from picking chewing gum off pavements to flashy Kardashian dinners. With genuine empathy, observational humour and boundless curiosity for civic systems, Wilson interviews everyday eccentrics, attends niche conferences, and observes the oddities of New York's streets, showing us how concrete is the foundation we all depend on but never take notice of.

IF PIGEONS TURNED TO GOLD

KDYBY SE HOLUBI PROMĚNILI VE ZLATO



WED 10 JUN 6:00 PM EV3
SAT 13 JUN 3:45 PM DNT2

18+

Czech Republic, Slovakia | 2026 | 110 mins
In English and Czech with English subtitles
Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Pepa Lubojacki | Producers: Klára Mamojková, Wanda Kaprálová | Sales Agent: Split Screen

Pepa Lubojacki tells their family's story, confronting intergenerational addiction with a mix of devices rarely seen in a documentary film. Winner, Berlinale Documentary Award.

Filmmaker Pepa Lubojacki documents four family members over many years as they each move in and out of unstable housing while living with addiction – a struggle that has shaped their family across generations, especially brother David. Returning again and again with their mobile phone, Pepa amasses 200+ hours of footage, searching for the brother they once knew while reckoning with their own limits in trying to help. Combining diary footage, AI-animated talking photographs and a variety of spectacular graphical elements, Pepa pushes the boundaries of what is possible in documentary form. Shifting between playful and serious, it may leave you feeling changed about how you see addiction and those living within it.

Festival Guest: Pepa Lubojacki

JUST LOOK UP



THU 11 JUN 6:15 PM EV11 15+
SUN 14 JUN 4:30 PM DNT1

USA, Denmark | 2026 | 95 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Directors: Emma Wall, Betsy Hershey | Producers:
Signe Byrge Sørensen, Natja Rosner | Production Company:
Guest House Productions

This pressing documentary follows Michael Greenberg, the leader of the climate activist group Climate Defiance which is fighting for the planet's future. Award winner, CPH:DOX 2026.

Michael Greenberg founded Climate Defiance in 2023, inspired by the civil rights movement, ACT UP and Gandhi. Alongside his fellow activists, Michael stages non-violent protests at events attended by the CEOs and politicians driving the climate crisis – with many going viral. This exhilarating doc, executive produced by Joshua Oppenheimer, reveals what it takes to run a youth led movement, from the pressures of organising to the personal risks in an increasingly authoritarian political environment. Directors Betsy Hershey and Emma Wall serve up a galvanising call to action, powered by a standout soundtrack featuring Chappell Roan, DoeChii, Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Billie Eilish.

LANDMARKS

NUESTRA TIERRA



TUE 9 JUN 6:00 PM DNT3 18+
SUN 14 JUN 5:45 PM EV11

Argentina, USA, Mexico, France, Netherlands, Denmark | 2025 | 122 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Lucrecia Martel | Screenwriters: Lucrecia Martel, María Alché | Producers: Benjamin Domenech, Santiago Galelli, Matías Roveda, Joslyn Barnes, Julio Chavezmontes, Javier Leoz | Sales Agent: The Match Factory

This explosive documentary directed by Lucrecia Martel (Zama, SFF 2018) won Best Film at BFI London Film Festival. A gripping investigation into the killing of an Indigenous leader.

A shocking act of violence unfolds in rural Argentina when Javier Chocobar, leader of the Indigenous Chuschagasta community, is killed defending ancestral land from encroachment. The crime, captured on camera, becomes undeniable, yet justice is delayed for a decade as those responsible remain free. With a searching approach that delivers profound insight, legendary Argentinian director Lucrecia Martel (in her first ever documentary) reveals how this act of violence echoes centuries of dispossession, resistance and exploitation. Evoking the enduring connection between the people and the land, this documentary is one of the most important films of the year – with a message that will linger long after the credits roll.

LOMU



SAT 13 JUN 4:00 PM EV5 ALL AGES
SUN 14 JUN 4:15 PM RITZ5

New Zealand, UK | 2025 | 107 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Directors: Gavin Fitzgerald, Vea Mafile'o | Producers:
Victoria Barrell, Simon Lazenby, Emma Slade, Victoria Dabbs
Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

This exhilarating documentary charts the rise of rugby legend Jonah Lomu, a once in a lifetime talent and sporting icon who would go on to change the landscape of rugby forever.

Rugby legend Jonah Lomu was a phenom from the start, sprinting 100 metres in under 11 seconds and becoming the youngest ever All Black at just 19 years old. His explosive impact at the 1995 Rugby World Cup transformed him into the sport's first global superstar. That same year, he was diagnosed with nephrotic syndrome, a life-threatening kidney condition that would shape the rest of his life and career. Yet his courage never faded, and he continued to play at an elite level for years to come. Directors Gavin FitzGerald and Vea Mafile'o pay a pitch-perfect tribute to a true Kiwi-Tongan warrior, through spectacular game footage, newly revealed family archives, and intimate reflections from those closest to him.

Festival Guest: Vea Mafile'o

MY FATHER AND QADDAFI

BABA WA AL QADHAFI



SAT 6 JUN 5:45 PM EV3 15+
MON 8 JUN 6:15 PM PALC1

Libya, USA | 2025 | 88 mins | In English, Arabic and French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Jihan K | Producers: Jihan K, Valentina Castellani-Quinn | Festival Contact: Jihan K

Director Jihan K reconstructs her father's disappearance after he opposed Qaddafi, with the help of her determined mother who never stopped searching. Award winner, Venice.

When Mansur Rashid Kikhia, who previously worked for the United Nations and served in Libya's government, vanished in 1993 after opposing dictator Muammar Qaddafi, his disappearance left an aching hole in the heart of his family. His daughter, Jihan K, now returns to his story with the help of her mother, who spent 19 years searching for Mansur without ever giving up. Jihan's mother serves as the emotional core of this cathartic tale, whose stories of the lengths she went to for answers are startlingly brave. This bold debut documentary not only offers a portrait of Rashid Kikhia's father; it opens a window into Libya's history, told through poignant memory and powerful testimony.

Festival Guest: Jihan K

NUISANCE BEAR



MON 8 JUN 6:00 PM DNT1 15+
WED 10 JUN 6:15 PM PNORT3
FRI 12 JUN 6:15 PM EV9

USA, Canada, UK | 2026 | 87 mins | In English and Inuktitut with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors: Jack Weisman, Gabriela Osio Vanden
Producers: Michael Code, Will N. Miller, Teddy Leifer
Festival Contact: Jack Weisman & Will N. Miller

Winner of the Grand Jury Prize for U.S. Documentary at Sundance, this urgent doc follows polar bears in Manitoba struggling to adapt to a world transformed by climate change.

Known as the 'Polar Bear Capital of the World', Churchill in Manitoba, Canada is being transformed by climate change, with dire consequences for these curious creatures. As the freeze arrives later each year, the local polar bear population is forced to remain closer to human settlements, drawing growing numbers of tourists eager to witness them up close. For Inuit communities, however, these encounters bring danger and fear. Scientists warn of declining populations, while the Inuit report increasing numbers and risk. Directors Jack Weisman and Gabriela Osio Vanden offer a thought-provoking study, featuring some of the most exceptional polar bear footage ever captured, while questioning our role as spectators of the wild.

ONCE UPON A TIME IN HARLEM



FRI 5 JUN 6:15 PM SLNSW ALL AGES
WED 10 JUN 6:30 PM DNT1

USA | 2026 | 100 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Directors: William Greaves, David Greaves
Producers: Liani Greaves, Anne de Mare | Sales Agent:
Cinetic Media

Footage of a once-in-a-lifetime gathering of Harlem Renaissance legends in 1972 is revealed in this exquisite and lauded documentary. Sundance; Cannes Directors' Fortnight 2026.

In 1972, visionary filmmaker William Greaves (*Symbiopsychotaxiplasm: Take One*) brought together key figures of the Harlem Renaissance for a party at the home of Duke Wellington, with his son David behind the camera. What unfolds is something truly special, as artists, writers and cultural pioneers reconnect, many for the first time in decades. The conversations move from warm and reflective to candid, unexpectedly revealing and utterly compelling. This beautifully captured film stands as a vital record of one of the most important artistic movements in American history, offering rich rewards for longtime admirers and those discovering it for the first time.

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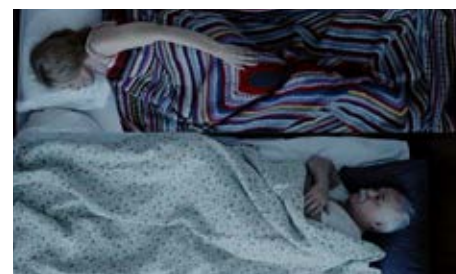
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Whispers in the Woods

PAST FUTURE CONTINUOUS



SUN 7 JUN 3:20 PM DNT3

15+

FRI 12 JUN 6:00 PM EV11

SUN 14 JUN 12:45 PM PALC1

Iran, Norway, Italy | 2025 | 76 mins | In English and Farsi with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Directors: Morteza Ahmadvand, Firouzeh Khosrovani
Screenwriters: Firouzeh Khosrovani, Morteza Ahmadvand, Naghmeh Samini | Producer: Firouzeh Khosrovani | Sales Agent: Taskovski Films

Firouzeh Khosrovani returns after *Radiograph of a Family* (SFF 2021) with a striking doc following an involuntary immigrant who surveils her parents who remain in Iran. Venice 2025.

At 20, Maryam fled Iran after seeing her friends killed or imprisoned. Now living in the United States, she persuades her parents to install cameras in their home in Tehran so she can witness their lives in real time. The film draws us into the inner worlds of both Maryam and her parents, as they age apart. Archival footage and glimpses of Iran's history deepen the story, revealing why Maryam had no choice but to leave. Directed by award-winning filmmaker Firouzeh Khosrovani and visual artist Morteza Ahmadvand, this formally inventive work received top honours at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam and delivers a moving exploration of distance, memory and the enduring allure of home.

REMAKE

SUN 7 JUN 4:00 PM PNORT3
SAT 13 JUN 12:45 PM EV3

18+

USA | 2025 | 116 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Ross McElwee | Producers: Mark Meatto, Ross McElwee | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Revered filmmaker Ross McElwee (*Sherman's March*, SFF 1986; *Bright Leaves*, SFF 2004) returns after 14 years with a heart-rending tribute to his lost son. Award winner, Venice 2025.

Ross McElwee has always dared to look where other filmmakers wouldn't, and with this haunting new film, he faces the worst thing that can happen to a parent – the loss of a child. Crafted from decades of McElwee's own home video footage and past films, alongside material filmed by his son Adrian, the film traces their story from the life-affirming moments of Adrian's early life to his later struggles as a young adult. Woven throughout is McElwee's unsuccessful attempt to remake *Sherman's March* as a Hollywood film. As McElwee reflects: "Remake is both my attempt to hold onto Adrian, and to let him go." A heartbreaker that serves as a powerful exploration of the balance between documenting life and understanding it.

THE SEOUL GUARDIANS
SEOUL-UI BAMTHU 11 JUN 9:30 AM STATE
FRI 12 JUN 8:15 PM DNT3
SAT 13 JUN 6:45 PM EV5

15+

South Korea | 2026 | 72 mins | In Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors: Kim Jong-woo, Kim Shin-wan, Cho Chul-young
Screenwriters: Stacy Kim, Cho Chul-young | Producers: Jo Sona, Kim Shin-wan | Sales Agent: Asian Shadows

An audience award winner at the International Film Festival Rotterdam, this electrifying documentary relives six breathless hours when martial law was declared in Seoul.

At 10:28pm on December 3, 2024, President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law, accusing the Democratic Party of collaborating with North Korean communists and sending shockwaves across South Korea. Within minutes, crowds gathered at the National Assembly as MPs raced to enter, climbing walls and pushing past police to hold a vote that could halt it. As tensions escalated and the National Guard closed in, citizens from all walks of life stood their ground, determined to protect democracy. Memories of the 1980 Gwangju Democratic Uprising echo throughout, sharpening the stakes. This urgent, edge-of-your-seat doc from directors Kim Jong-woo, Kim Shin-wan and Cho Chul-young is political cinema at its best.

Festival Guest: Kim Shin-wan

STEAL THIS STORY, PLEASE!

FRI 5 JUN 6:00 PM EV3
MON 8 JUN 4:15 PM DNT2

15+

USA | 2025 | 101 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Directors: Carl Deal, Tia Lessin | Producers: Carl Deal, Tia Lessin, Karen Ranucci, Diana Cohn, Caren Spruch
Sales Agent: Together Films

This multiple audience award-winning film on Democracy Now! cofounder Amy Goodman reveals why fearless journalism matters more than ever. Executive produced by Jane Fonda.

In 1991, Amy Goodman's life changed forever while reporting on the East Timor independence movement. After witnessing the killing of protestors and being brutally beaten herself, she recognised the power of journalism to create change. Since cofounding Democracy Now! in 1996, that mission has defined Goodman's fearless reporting – consistently challenging those in power. Unforgettable archival moments include an unexpected call from President Bill Clinton, as she meets him with uncompromising questions. Oscar-nominated directors Carl Deal and Tia Lessin (*Trouble the Water*) craft a vivid, deeply human portrait, charged with urgency, wit and conviction in an era when truth itself is under siege.

SUMMER 2000: THE X-CETRA STORY

THU 4 JUN 6:00 PM DNT1
SUN 14 JUN 1:45 PM EV3

15+

USA | 2026 | 96 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Ayden Mayeri | Screenwriters: Barry Rothbart, Ayden Mayeri | Producers: Rachael Fung, Barry Rothbart, Ayden Mayeri | Production Company: Extra A Productions

This whimsical documentary follows four women whose childhood album unexpectedly goes viral decades later, sparking an unplanned reunion. Winner, SXSW Documentary Competition.

It's the year 2000 in Santa Rosa, California. Pre-teen friends Jessica Hall, Ayden Mayeri, and sisters Janet and Mary Washburn form a band, X-Cetra, and record their own album inspired by the Spice Girls and the sounds of the time. Before long, the fad is over, the music is dismissed and their adolescent lives diverge. Two decades on, their music resurfaces online, unexpectedly gaining fans (including Alison Brie) and acclaim, drawing them back together. Blending home movies, diary entries and new interviews, Ayden Mayeri's directorial debut becomes a joyful and bittersweet reflection on friendship, memory and growing up, as they revisit the past, create new music and rediscover the bonds they never truly lost.

THE TALE OF SILYAN



SAT 6 JUN 4:15 PM SLNSW PG
SUN 7 JUN 2:00 PM DNT1
SUN 14 JUN 4:30 PM PNORT3

North Macedonia, USA | 2025 | 81 mins | In English and Macedonian with English subtitles

Director, Screenwriter: Tamara Kotevska | Producers: Tamara Kotevska, Jean Dakar, Anna Hashmi, Jordanco Petkovski | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Oscar-nominated Tamara Kotevska's (*Honeyland*, SFF 2019) remarkable new documentary follows a Macedonian farmer and an injured stork, whose unlikely friendship transforms a solitary life. Venice 2025.

Nikola has worked the land he loves for his entire life, but new government policies leave him unable to sustain his farm. With his family forced to seek work abroad, he is left alone, until a chance encounter at a landfill brings an injured white stork into his life. Nursing Silyan back to health, Nikola discovers a companion who fills the emptiness left by those he loves. Inspired by a 17th-century Macedonian folktale, award-winning documentarian Tamara Kotevska crafts a visually stunning, tender story of survival, connection and the fragile bond between humans and nature. Winner, Best Film, Cinema and Arts Award at Venice.

THEYDREAM



THU 4 JUN 12:45 PM STATE 15+
FRI 5 JUN 6:00 PM DNT1
SUN 7 JUN 5:45 PM EV3

USA | 2026 | 91 mins | In English and Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: William D. Caballero | Screenwriters: William D. Caballero, Brad Jones, Erin Ploss-Campoamor, Elaine Del Valle | Producers: William D. Caballero, Brad Jones, Erin Ploss-Campoamor, Elaine Del Valle | Festival Contact: The Film Collaborative

A visionary filmmaker and his mother heal their grief through art, combining family archives with animation to bring their loved ones back to life. Award winner, Sundance 2026.

In this moving documentary, queer director William D. Caballero returns home to be with his mother as they navigate the loss of their family members. Together, they draw on family audio and video, and step into the roles of their relatives – reimagined through vivid animation. This cathartic act soon transforms their lives. In one of many powerful moments, William plays both his father and younger self, revisiting a conversation shaped by homophobia. Blending animation with live action and vérité, the film offers a tender experience that is as unexpected as it is full of warmth. Winner of the NEXT Special Jury Award at Sundance, this debut documentary is not to be missed.

Festival Guest: William D. Caballero

TIME AND WATER



SUN 7 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ5 ALL AGES
SAT 13 JUN 6:00 PM EV9

USA, Iceland | 2026 | 93 mins | In English and Icelandic with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director: Sara Dosa | Screenwriters: Sara Dosa, Jocelyne Chaput, Erin Casper, Andri Snær Magnason
 Producers: Shane Boris, Elijah Stevens, Jameka Astry, Sara Dosa | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Oscar nominee Sara Dosa's (*Fire of Love*, SFF 2022) latest stunner sees writer Andri Snær Magnason reflect on family, memory and Iceland's disappearing glaciers. Sundance 2026.

"My grandparents thought glaciers would always be there. I thought this too," says Andri. In this urgent film, Magnason reflects on three generations of family bound by a deep love of Iceland's disappearing glaciers. Through stories of elf women and the loss of the Bird Cliffs, alongside traditional songs, intimate archival films and family photographs, a fragile past comes into focus. As Iceland's glaciers melt due to climate change and the country's puffin population declines dramatically, Dosa intertwines Andri's moving personal story with folktales and myths to create a powerful meditation on loss – and how our actions today will shape the natural world future generations will inherit tomorrow.

TO HOLD A MOUNTAIN



MON 8 JUN 4:30 PM EV11 15+
SAT 13 JUN 12:00 PM DNT1

Serbia, France, Montenegro, Slovenia, Croatia | 2026
 105 mins | In Montenegrin with English subtitles
 Australian Premiere

Directors, Screenwriters: Biljana Tutorov, Petar Glomazić
 Producers: Biljana Tutorov, Petar Glomazić, Quentin Laurent, Rok Biček | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Winner of Sundance's World Cinema Documentary Prize, this enthralling film follows a mother and daughter trying to stop their picturesque mountain home from becoming a NATO base.

Set high on Montenegro's remote Sinjajevina plateau, this spectacular documentary follows Gara and her daughter Nada, who live amongst a community of women who spend their summers tending cattle, making cheese and fending off wolves. But their quiet way of life is under threat by plans for a NATO military training ground on the mountain. Gara leads the resistance, refusing to let her home, known as Mother, be taken. But as fragments of her family's past resurface, Gara's story expands beyond protest into something more challenging and cathartic. Directed by Biljana Tutorov and Petar Glomazić, and executive produced by Petra Costa (*The Edge of Democracy*, SFF 2019), this breathtaking film will stay with you.

TRACES

SLIDI



TUE 9 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ3 18+
SUN 14 JUN 4:45 PM DNT2

Ukraine, Poland | 2026 | 86 mins | In Ukrainian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Directors: Alisa Kovalenko, Marysia Nikitiuk | Screenwriter: Alisa Kovalenko | Producers: Olha Bregman, Natalia Libet
 Sales Agent: Stranger Film Sales

Winner of the Berlinale Panorama Audience Award for Best Documentary, *Traces* follows brave Ukrainian women who break their silence about sexual violence during Russia's war.

Traces moves beyond documentation of gender-based violence in war, becoming a powerful reflection on resilience and the strength found when women stand together. Iryna Dovhan, once held captive and subjected to public humiliation, now stands beside women who choose to speak about the sexual violence they have endured during Russia's war in Ukraine. Sharing these experiences is painful, yet within this collective space, their voices gain strength and recognition. Directors Alisa Kovalenko and Marysia Nikitiuks allow each testimony to unfold with dignity, while showcasing how solidarity can begin to rebuild what has been broken. An empathetic and vital documentary that honours courage and the power of speaking out.

WHISPERS IN THE WOODS

LE CHANT DES FÔRETS



WED 3 JUN 6:30 PM EV9 ALL AGES
SAT 6 JUN 12:00 PM SOH
SAT 13 JUN 6:30 PM PNORT3

France | 2025 | 93 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Vincent Munier | Producers: Pierre-Emmanuel Fleurantin, Laurent Baujard, Vincent Munier
 Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

A visual stunner, drawing one million people to French cinemas. Photographer Vincent Munier journeys with his father and son through the Vosges, France. Featuring music by Warren Ellis.

Three generations of the Munier family connect and explore the forests and mountains of the Vosges in France and Norway, moving quietly to glimpse owls, bears, deer, lynxes, and the elusive capercaillie. Vincent Munier (*The Velvet Queen*), the first three-time winner of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award, brings his unmatched eye for detail and light, crafting images that will inspire. Enhanced by the sounds of the forest and wildlife, with music contributions by composer Warren Ellis, the film fully immerses. Above all, it encourages us to put down our phones and reconnect with the extraordinary wildlife around us. A box office hit in France and winner of the 2026 César Award for Best Documentary Film.

Screens with *A Man Who Takes Pictures of Flowers*

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Ghost in the Cell

YOU'LL SEE IT BETWEEN YOUR FINGERS

Freak Me Out cordially invites you to take a walk on the wild and weird side of contemporary cinema. Riotous body-horror comedy, brain-bending mystery, searing examinations of the human condition, and a whole lot of ghostly goings-on and mind-boggling action await you in our sideshow alley of strange and stimulating motion picture attractions.

Richard Kuipers, Freak Me Out Curator

FREAK ME OUT



The Pearl Comb

DAWNING

DEMRRING



MON 8 JUN 6:30 PM DNT3
THU 11 JUN 8:45 PM EV3

18+

Norway | 2025 | 109 mins | In Norwegian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Patrik Syversen | Producers: Patrik Syversen, Andreas Johannessen, Kristin Emblem
Cast: Kathrine Thorborg Johansen, Silje Storstein, Marte Magnusdotter Solem | Festival Contact: Patrik Syversen

This riveting psychodrama follows three sisters who gather at a family cabin in Norway, where disturbing news and an ominous stranger awaits them. Fantastic Fest, Sitges 2025.

Extreme arthouse and elevated grindhouse are terms that can be equally applied to Patrik Syversen's breathtaking exercise in the possibilities of cinema, a SpectreVision (*Mandy*) co-production. We begin in Ingmar Bergman territory, with sisters Cecilie and Esther gathering to support younger sibling Kristine (Kathrine Thorborg Johansen) following her second suicide attempt. Penetrating psychological drama is infused with menace and dread when news of their mother's sudden death arrives, and the sisters' solitude is shattered.

Filed in monochrome, with pointed excursions into glorious 16mm colour, Syversen's meticulous genre-defying tale is as poignant as it is terrifying.

Screens with *Ultraviolet Damage*

GHOST IN THE CELL



WED 3 JUN 8:30 PM EV3
SAT 13 JUN 9:00 PM DNT3

18+

Indonesia, South Korea | 2026 | 106 mins | In Indonesian with English subtitles

Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Joko Anwar | Producer: Tia Hasibuan
Cast: Abimana Aryasatya, Endy Arfian, Bront Palarae
Australian Distributor: Blue Finch Film Releasing

A vengeful demon runs amok inside a high security prison in this gleefully gruesome horror-action-comedy spectacular from Indonesian genre ace Joko Anwar. Berlinale 2026.

Joko Anwar (*Satan's Slaves*, *Gundala*) is in the form of his life with this blood-drenched combo of grisly horror, gallows humour and potent political commentary. When flayed and bizarrely displayed corpses start piling up in a prison run by corrupt and sadistic officials, it's time for the inmates to set gang rivalries aside and figure out how to combat the invisible and bloodthirsty entity. With all the visual flair and smart writing that's made him a leading light in contemporary genre cinema, Anwar also throws fabulous dance numbers and performance art prayer routines into the giddy mix. This deliriously entertaining descent into hell makes a strong claim as the *ne plus ultra* of haunted prison pics.

Screens with *TELE XXX*

IMPOSTERS



FRI 5 JUN 8:45 PM EV9
FRI 12 JUN 8:45 PM DNT2

18+

USA | 2026 | 102 mins | In English
Australian Premiere

Director | Screenwriter: Caleb Phillips | Producers: Thomas Bond, Sara Seligman, Joe Bandelli | Cast: Jessica Rothe, Charlie Barnett, Yul Vazquez | Sales Agent: Blue Finch Film Releasing

Scream queen Jessica Rothe (*Happy Death Day*) stars in a mind-bending sci-fi horror about the apparently miraculous return of a couple's missing child. SXSW Midnighter 2026.

Caleb Phillips' widely praised feature debut fashions the basics of a missing persons thriller into a mesmerising puzzle box about primal fear and desire. With a rocky marriage and an infant son who's vanished without a trace, desperate mother Marie (Rothe) is led to a hidden cave near her small-town home and emerges with young Theo safe in her arms. When husband Paul (Charlie Barnett, *Russian Doll*) suspects something isn't right, Phillips' screenplay takes off in highly imaginative, unpredictable and suspenseful directions. One of those rare films that initially seems familiar until you realise you've never seen anything quite like it before, *Imposters* is mightily impressive stuff.

Screens with *The Lounge*

MUM, I'M ALIEN PREGNANT



THU 4 JUN 8:50 PM DNT3
SUN 14 JUN 8:00 PM EV3

18+

New Zealand | 2026 | 95 mins | In English
Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: THUNDERLIPS | Producers: Alix Whittaker, Morgan Leigh Stewart, Ilai Amar | Cast: Hannah Lynch, Yvette Parsons, Arlo Green | Australian Distributor: Umbrella Entertainment

The gross-out dial is turned up to 11 in this hilarious debut feature from Kiwi duo Thunderlips. The truth-in-advertising title says it all. Sundance 2026.

What is millennial lazybones Mary (Hannah Lynch, *Petrol*) to do when one of the weirdest erotic encounters you'll ever see leaves her expecting the patter of little human-alien feet in 72 hours? That's just the start of a cheerfully outrageous tale that oozes all manner of slimy, jiggy alien goo and radiates the delicious dry wit New Zealanders do best. Surrounded by her alarmingly uninhibited mum, a nerdy semi-extra-terrestrial dad-to-be, and his uptight mother (Jackie Van Beek, *Nude Tuesday*, SFF 2022), Mary's road to motherhood is a horror-comedy riot with a sharply satirical eye and a surprisingly big heart. If ever a film was – bad pun intended – 'born' to be in FMO, it's this Kiwi cracker.

Screens with *Clown Song*

NEVER AFTER DARK



SUN 7 JUN 8:30 PM EV3 18+
WED 10 JUN 8:30 PM DNT3

Japan | 2026 | 105 mins | In Japanese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Dave Boyle | Producers: Dave Boyle, Kento Kaku, Kosuke Tsutsumi | Cast: Moeka Hoshi, Kurumi Inagaki, Kento Kaku | Festival Contact: The Festival Agency

A travelling psychic's routine job turns into a terrifying ordeal in a scary and stunningly executed J-horror set at a remote hotel. Audience award, SXSW Midnighter 2026.

Airi earns her living by helping ghosts find peace and move on from where they've been lingering. It's usually an easy task but nothing so simple awaits Airi when hired by property developer Mrs Teiko and her son Gunji. Something far more sinister than a stubborn spirit resides in the hotel they plan to renovate and sell at a handsome profit. Honouring the tradition of Japanese ghost stories while upending familiar tropes, this supernatural tale keeps its explosive secrets well-hidden. Alongside the mystery and suspense, the film packs an emotional punch. It's masterfully directed by Dave Boyle (*House of Ninjas*), and Moeka Hoshi (*Shōgun*) is a knockout as the above-average medium.

Screens with *Heirlooms*

THE PERIL AT PINCER POINT



SAT 6 JUN 8:45 PM DNT3 18+
TUE 9 JUN 8:30 PM EV3

UK | 2025 | 83 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Directors, Screenwriters, Producers Noah Stratton-Twine, Jake Kuhn | Cast: Jack Redmayne, Alyth Ross, Os Leanse
Production Company: Gittes Cross Pictures

A sound recordist is sent to a strange island in this spectacularly eccentric British comedy-horror-fantasy delight made in marvellous monochrome. Auteur Award, SXSW 2026.

You are invited to set sail for the most mysterious and wonderfully weird movie destination of the year. The feature debut of UK short filmmakers Jake Kuhn and Noah Stratton-Twine stars a terrific Jack Redmayne as Jim, an eager-beaver London audio technician. His mission is to capture the sounds of Pincer Point, an eerie island where egomaniac director P.W. Griffin has filmed his latest creature feature. Oddballs with tales of ghost ships and stolen souls abound as Jim's task turns to obsession and he becomes enmeshed in secrets, mysteries and spooky goings-on. The howling winds of B-movie horrors and the stormy gusts of experimental cinema fill the sails of this visually stunning flight of absurdist fancy.

Screens with *The Pearl Comb*

Festival Guests: Noah Stratton-Twine and Jake Kuhn



The Peril at Pincer Point

FREAK ME OUT SHORTS

CLOWN SONG

Canada, UK, USA | 2025 | 7 mins
In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Brady Dowad | Screenwriters: Brady Dowad, Steven M. Robertson
Producer: Sibella Dowad
Cast: Enzo Cilenti, Rebecca Ritz, Cathryn Dylan | Festival Contact: Brady Dowad



The tears of a clown flow like rain in this power chord driven confessional.

Screens with *Mum, I'm Alien Pregnant*

HEIRLOOMS

Canada, USA | 2025 | 13 mins
In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Dan Abramovici
Screenwriters: Dan Abramovici, Peter Lavoie | Producers: Zeus Kontoyannis, Ali Mashayekhi
Cast: Chloe Van Landschoot, Ryan Bruce | Festival Contact: Zeus Kontoyannis



Jamie inherits a wardrobe with a long memory and a mean streak. Best Canadian Short, Fantasia 2025.

Screens with *Never After Dark*

THE LOUNGE

Australia | 2026 | 15 mins
In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Nicola Sercombe
Producer: David R. Priestly
Cast: Contessa Treffone, Mackenzie Fearnley, Susan Ling Young
Festival Contact: Nicola Sercombe



Unfairly overlooked employee Liz wants to become a successful corporate creature.

Screens with *Imposters*

THE PEARL COMB

UK | 2025 | 21 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Ali Cook
Producers: Ross Williams, Matthew James Wilkinson
Cast: Beatie Edney, Ali Cook, Simon Armstrong | Festival Contact: Rebekah Louisa Smith

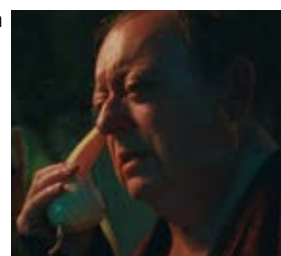


Cornwall, 1893, is the setting for a spellbinding mix of mermaid folk-horror and true stories. Oscar shortlist 2026. Winner of over 60 international awards.

Screens with *The Peril at Pincer Point*

TELE XXX

UK, Italy | 2026 | 9 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Johnny Massahi
Producers: Roberto Colapietro, Johnny Massahi, Danny Seymour
Cast: Laurence R. Harvey, Charlotte Avery, Sue Moore | Festival Contact: Johnny Massahi



A recluse (Laurence R. Harvey, *The Human Centipede 2*) gets his 'come-uppance' from a seductive TV screen.

Screens with *Ghost in the Cell*

ULTRAVIOLET DAMAGE

Germany | 2026 | 5 mins | In Russian with English subtitles
World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Pola Rader | Cast: Nikolai Surshik, Maria Vadimova Ruppel, Inna Wohl
Festival Contact: Pola Rader



A child's eye view of the spaces between us.

Screens with *Dawning*



SOUNDS ON SCREEN

You'll see and you'll hear big stories with big sound. These features and documentaries focus on music and offer an aurally exhilarating experience that's a treat for the senses.

In addition to the films listed here, see more music on screen with: *El Sett* page 22, *The Piano Tuner* page 10, *Whistle* page 11, *The Loneliest Man in Town* and *Mile End Kicks* page 24, *Summer 2000: The X-Cetera Story* page 32.



The Best Summer

BROKEN ENGLISH



SAT 6 JUN 6:20 PM DNT1
MON 8 JUN 4:00 PM EV9
SAT 13 JUN 4:30 PM PNORT3

UK | 2025 | 99 mins | In English
Directors: Iain Forsyth, Jane Pollard | Screenwriter: Iain Forsyth, Jane Pollard, Ian Martin | Producer: Beth Earl
Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Tilda Swinton and George MacKay star in this loving tribute to singer, actor and cultural icon Marianne Faithfull from the makers of *20,000 Days on Earth* (SFF 2014), Venice 2025.

A poster child for the 1960s counterculture. Cancelled and almost consumed by the darkness of addiction that followed. A stunning return with 1979 rock masterpiece *Broken English* and subsequent career as a powerful creative force. Marianne Faithfull lived a singular artistic life. With unblinking candour and sparkling wit, Faithfull reflects on six decades of work, life, tumult and triumph in this provocative documentary that comes to SFF a year on from her passing. With inventive dramatic sequences featuring Tilda Swinton and George MacKay, and special contributions by performers including Courtney Love, Beth Orton and Nick Cave, *Broken English* is as unconventional, compelling and richly layered as its subject.

15+

JACK JOHNSON: SURFILMUSIC



SUN 7 JUN 2.45 PM SOH ALL AGES
SUN 14 JUN 3:30 PM SLNSW

USA | 2026 | 76 mins | In English
Director: Emmett Malloy | Producers: Daniel Pappas, Tim Wheeler, Wyatt Daily | Festival Contact: Monster Children

Follow the sea-sprayed evolution of Jack Johnson from O'ahu grommet, to filmmaker, to the world famous musician behind hits like "Upside Down" and "Banana Pancakes". SXSW 2026.

Born in O'ahu, Hawaii, home of the legendary Banzai Pipeline, Jack Johnson came into the world surfboard in tow. Built from an extraordinary personal archive, alongside Johnson's own surf film footage, this remarkable documentary is a sun-drenched portrait of restless exploration, where surfing, film and music all flow together. The film captures the community of surfers, artists and filmmakers who helped to carve out Johnson's path; and the fully lived life he bottled up and poured into his music. Featuring appearances from surf legends, filmmakers and musicians, including Kelly Slater, Gerry Lopez, Ben Harper, and Ben Stiller, with original music by Jack Johnson and Hermanos Gutiérrez.

AMADOU & MARIAM: THE BLIND COUPLE FROM MALI



SUN 7 JUN 6:45 PM DNT2 15+
SAT 13 JUN 6:45 PM EV11

Canada | 2026 | 87 mins | In English, French and Bambara with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Ryan Marley | Producer: Katie Lafferty | Sales Agent: Mediawan Rights

Fifty years of music and love are celebrated in a portrait of legendary blind Malian duo Amadou & Mariam. Featuring Chris Martin, Damon Albarn and Manu Chao. CPH:DOX, FIPADOC 2026.

The extraordinary story of Amadou Bagayoko and Mariam Doumbia begins in 1975 at Mali's Institute for the Young Blind. Musically and romantically inseparable from that moment, the duo first known as the Blind Couple From Mali have brought joy to global audiences with soul-stirring, toe-tapping songs about love, compassion and human dignity. Filmed in Spain, France and war-torn Mali during the recording of their final album, this lovingly assembled documentary takes us beyond the music and deep into the beautiful hearts of guitar virtuoso Amadou and heavenly-voiced singer Mariam. Damon Albarn, Manu Chao and Chris Martin also appear in a film that makes you want to dance, cheer and cry all at the same time.

THE BEST SUMMER



SAT 6 JUN 8:30 PM DNT1 18+
SUN 7 JUN 8:00 PM SOH
TUE 9 JUN 7:00 PM EV5

USA | 2026 | 84 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Producer: Tamra Davis | Sales Agent: Visit Films

Head backstage with the Beastie Boys, Sonic Youth, Foo Fighters and more in this revelatory Sundance rockumentary, capturing the 1995 Australian music festival Summersault.

An infectiously fun tour diary, *The Best Summer* unearths a treasure trove of never-before-seen footage from one of the most stacked festival lineups ever to grace Australian shores. Dusting off tapes recovered from her garage while fleeing the recent Malibu fires, director Tamra Davis (*Jean-Michel Basquiat: The Radiant Child*, SFF 2010; *Billy Madison*) pieces together an electric time capsule of '90s alternative music legends at the peak of their youthful powers. Featuring candid, frequently hilarious interviews with the likes of Kim Gordon, Thurston Moore, Kim Deal, Beck, Dave Grohl and Kathleen Hanna, alongside raucous on-stage antics, it's an all-access pass to a momentous moment in Australian music history.

Festival Guest: Tamra Davis

NEWPORT & THE GREAT FOLK DREAM



SUN 7 JUN 12:00 PM SLNSW 15+
MON 8 JUN 6:30 PM PNORT3
SUN 14 JUN 6:45 PM DNT3

USA | 2025 | 99 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Robert Gordon | Producers: Joe Lauro, Laura Jean Hocking, Robert Gordon | Sales Agent: Submarine Entertainment

A thrilling time capsule of the Newport Folk Festival in the 1960s, where music, activism and cultural change collided – and where Bob Dylan famously went electric. Venice 2025.

At the Newport Folk Festival of the early 1960s, music was inseparable from politics, community and the possibility of profound social change. Returning to the years 1963–66, this exhilarating documentary brings together Joan Baez, Odetta, Pete Seeger, Johnny Cash and Bob Dylan with gospel groups, banjo players, Egyptian oud musicians and singing Canadian fishermen. Edited from more than 100 hours of archival footage, it captures a moment when activism and artistic discovery went hand in hand. Dylan's landmark electric set is here, of course, but *Newport & the Great Folk Dream* is equally compelling as a record of the artists, audiences and ideals that made the festival a cultural landmark.

TENOR: MY NAME IS PATI



SAT 6 JUN 4:00 PM PNORT3 ALL AGES
MON 8 JUN 4:30 PM SLNSW

New Zealand | 2025 | 103 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Rebecca Tansley
Australian Distributor: Rialto Distribution

A stirring portrait of acclaimed Samoan-born New Zealand tenor Pene Pati and his brother Amitai, the voices behind the beloved Aotearoa popera phenomenon *SOL3 MIO*.

Hailed as the new Pavarotti, New Zealand's Pene Pati is one of opera's brightest young voices, astonishing audiences worldwide with his unique timbre. Alongside his brother Amitai, they have become unlikely stars of the European operatic stage. In this candid documentary, award-winning director Rebecca Tansley (*The Heart Dances*, SFF 2019) follows Pene and Amitai as they reflect on their journey from childhood church performances in South Auckland to international acclaim in Paris, London and beyond. Studded with breathtaking performances, the film explores the deep bonds of family and culture that shaped them and their ongoing reconciliation of where those roots sit within the world of opera.



The Last Whale Singer

FAMILY

Family Films is your place to discover big daredevil adventures, magical mysterious worlds and marvellously mischievous characters. Expect stories that lift the spirit, warm the heart, spark the imagination and cause belly laughs. A riotous, fun-packed program designed to bring joy to the whole family!

Katharine Rogers, Family Films Curator



The Desert Child

THE DESERT CHILD L'ENFANT DU DÉSERT



SUN 7 JUN 1:30 PM EV3
SUN 14 JUN 12:00 PM RITZ5

ALL AGES

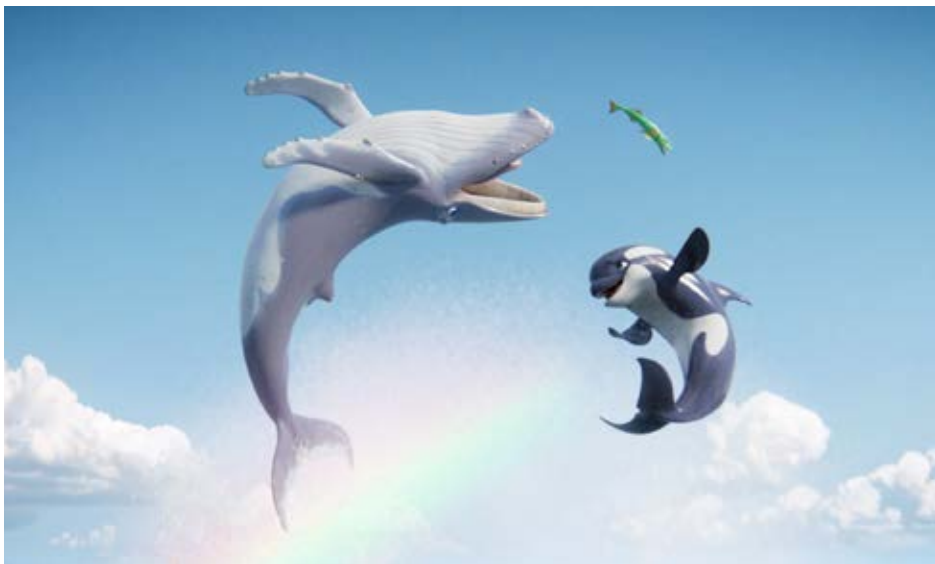
France | 2026 | 91 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director: Gilles de Maistre | Screenwriter: Prune de Maistre | Producers: Catherine Camborde, Antoine Morand, Anna Marsh, Francois Mergier | Cast: Nahel Tran, Nahil Bouazzaoui, Zayn Sekkat | Australian Distributor: STUDIOCANAL

The breathtaking true story of Hadara, a boy who survives ten years in the Sahara, raised by ostriches, unfolds as a wondrous and visually stunning family adventure.

When 14-year-old Sun publishes her debut novel about a boy lost in the Sahara and raised by ostriches, based on a story her grandfather told her, she never expects it to be real. Invited to the desert, she is guided by local Indigenous tribespeople who reveal they are descendants of Hadara – and that the tale is true. As they share his story, Sun uncovers an extraordinary 10-year survival story shaped by resilience and connection to the land, while gaining new insight into her grandfather's past. From Gilles de Maistre, premiering at Joburg Film Festival, this sweeping family adventure blends stunning visuals with an incredible story.

THE LAST WHALE SINGER



SAT 6 JUN 1:30 PM EV3
SAT 13 JUN 12:00 PM DNT3

ALL AGES

Canada, Germany, Czech Republic | 2025 | 91 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

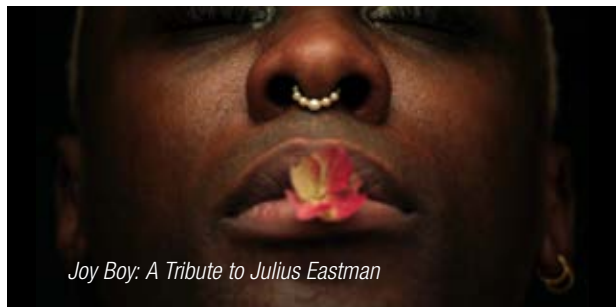
Director, Screenwriter: Reza Memari | Producer: Maite Woköck | Cast: Vincent Tong, Bruce Dinsmore, Jenna Wheeler-Hughes | Australian Distributor: Icon Film Distribution

This thrilling animated adventure follows a self-doubting teenage humpback whale who must find his voice (with a little help from his friends) in order to save the ocean.

This sweeping animated adventure made waves at the Zurich International Film Festival. When Vincent, a young humpback whale, loses his parents, he begins to doubt his own abilities. How could he possibly live up to the legacy left behind by his father, the last of the Whale Singers? But when a colossal, ancient force awakens in the ocean depths, Vincent learns he is the only one who can stop it – he just has to find his voice. With his loyal, quick-witted nanny fish, Walter, by his side, Vincent embarks on a breathtaking journey that will test his strength, resilience and the true power of his song. A dazzling tale of friendship and self-belief, *The Last Whale Singer* is a splash of fun for the whole family.

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Festival 2026





Joy Boy: A Tribute to Julius Eastman

FLUX: ART+FILM

FLUX foregrounds the cutting-edge of contemporary cinema, championing daring new work.

This year's program celebrates revelatory experiments with form, from a pixelated road trip through rural Georgia shot on an old mobile phone to a glitchy portrait of futuristic LA and a 16mm techno noir built around a machine that can photograph the past.

Ruby Arrowsmith-Todd and Dr. Harriet Johnson,
FLUX Curators



Dry Leaf

DRY LEAF KHMELI POTOLI



SAT 6 JUN 1:00 PM PALC1
SUN 14 JUN 7:00 PM PALC1

ALL AGES

Germany, Georgia | 2025 | 186 mins | In Georgian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Alexandre Koberidze | Producers: Mariam Shatberashvili, Luise Hauschild, Alexandre Koberidze
Cast: David Koberidze, Otar Nijaradze | Australian Distributor: Plainwater

Shot entirely on an old phone to mesmerising effect, Georgian auteur Alexandre Koberidze's latest is a stunning road trip mystery in 144p. Prize winner at Locarno 2025.

One of the boldest formal experiments in recent cinema, *Dry Leaf* finds striking beauty in the low-res and lo-fi. Lisa, a sports photographer, vanishes while documenting soccer fields in rural Georgia. Her father, played by the director's own, sets off to find her, traversing villages and backroads rendered as pixelated vistas of cows, smudged wildflowers and hazy smears of autumnal light. Objects blur, orientation dissolves. Koberidze wields his W595 Sony Ericsson like a painter, conjuring gorgeous compositions reminiscent of Impressionist pastorals. Attuned to shifting light and fleeting detail, *Dry Leaf* is as much a mystery as it is a meditation on perception – an invitation to look anew.

FLUX: ART+FILM SHORTS

ACETONE REALITY

15+

USA | 2025 | 13 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Directors: Sara Magenheimer, Michael Bell-Smith | Rights Holder: Video Data Bank

A teetering montage of blocky pixels, smeared chromatics and CGI voices cascade and collide in this hypnotic short.

Screens with *Tycoon*

THE WETTING

18+

Australia | 2026 | 15 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: EO Gill | Cast: Eugene Choi, Megan Holloway, Tobias Tsonis | Festival Contact: EO Gill

The latest melodrama from Eora-based artist filmmaker EO Gill – a lush 16mm psychosexual thriller between a spinster and a stranger.

Screens with *Maddie's Secret*

THE RITES OF WHEN

18+

Australia | 2025 | 30 mins | Australian Premiere
Director: Angelica Mesiti | Producer: Violeta Kreimer | Festival Contact: Violeta Kreimer

Australian artist Angelica Mesiti's transfixing single-channel film reimagines seasonal rituals through dance, electronic music, body percussion and polyphonic chanting.

Screens with *Joy Boy: A Tribute to Julius Eastman*



Acetone Reality

JOY BOY: A TRIBUTE TO JULIUS EASTMAN



SUN 7 JUN 6:20 PM PALC1
THU 11 JUN 8:40 PM PALC1

18+

Belgium, France, Democratic Republic of Congo 2026 | 64 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Directors, Producers: Mawena Yehouessi, Fallon Mayanja, Rob Jacobs, Victoire Karera Kampire, Paul Shemisi, Anne Reijniers | Festival Contact: Rob Jacobs

A prismatic, polyphonic tribute by six artists to Julius Eastman, a visionary queer African American composer and unsung pioneer of 20th century minimalism.

Created by a collective of Belgian-Congolese artists, *Joy Boy* channels the radical energy of Julius Eastman (1940-1990), whose music was long overlooked. A Black, gay iconoclast, Eastman challenged the conventions of minimalism, fusing avant-garde techniques with pop and free jazz in 1970s and '80s New York. Structured in four chapters, the film honours Eastman's key works through stroboscopic visuals, archival recordings and exuberant choreography in the streets of Kinshasa. Guided by Eastman's uncompromising politics, *Joy Boy* unfolds as a collective act of solidarity, where sound and movement converge in luminous, defiant tableaux.

Screens with *The Rites of When*

MADDIE'S SECRET



THU 4 JUN 8:30 PM DNT1
FRI 12 JUN 6:00 PM PALC1
SUN 14 JUN 8:45 PM DNT3

18+

USA | 2025 | 98 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: John Early | Producers: Harris Mayersohn, Luca Intili, John Early | Cast: John Early, Kate Berlant, Eric Rahill | Sales Agent: Mister Smith Entertainment

Comedian John Early balances satire and earnest melodrama in this acclaimed debut inspired by 1950s golden age Hollywood, campy daytime movies, and the '90s classic *Showgirls*.

"Play nice, we have content to make!" John Early stars as Maddie, a bright-eyed dishwasher catapulted into viral fame at a chic food influencer company. Flanked by a cast of alt-comedy icons – including Kate Berlant, Vanessa Bayer, and Conner O'Malley – Maddie's ascent is as intoxicating as it is destabilising. As her recipes rack up views, a childhood struggle with bulimia resurfaces. Never winking from behind his wig, Early approaches the film's subject matter with disarming sincerity, finding genuine pathos amidst melodrama. Playing with the stylised pleasures of TV movies – all syrupy dialogue, lurid muzak and unresolved mummy issues – this is camp aesthetics for the era of content creation.

Screens with *The Wetting*

CHRONOVISOR



MON 8 JUN 4:00 PM PALC1
SAT 13 JUN 2:00 PM PALC1

ALL AGES

USA | 2026 | 99 mins | In English, French, Italian and German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors, Screenwriters: Jack Auen, Kevin Walker | Producer: Jason Zuriff | Cast: Anne-Laure Sellier | Sales Agent: Lights On

In this strikingly original debut, a professor becomes obsessed with a mysterious occult device capable of visualising the past. Rotterdam, MoMA New Directors/New Films 2026.

American duo Kevin Walker and Jack Auen's 16mm sci-fi noir follows a Columbia academic spiralling into a research wormhole. While writing on memory, Béatrice (real-life professor Anne-Laure Sellier) becomes fixated on a Benedictine monk's claim to have built the 'Chronovisor,' a time-travelling machine that can broadcast the past onto a television set. The monk even claimed to have witnessed the crucifixion of Christ. As Béatrice delves deeper into the archive, a labyrinth of conjecture, cover-ups and conspiracy begins to emerge. Shot in New York's gothic reading rooms, *Chronovisor* is a cerebral, formally daring mystery in the spirit of Jorge Luis Borges and Umberto Eco, where scholarship becomes séance.

TYCOON



FRI 5 JUN 8:40 PM PALC1
WED 10 JUN 8:15 PM PALC1

15+

Canada, USA | 2025 | 89 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Charlotte Zhang | Producers: Charlotte Zhang, Kenneth Andrew Sarmiento Yuen | Cast: Miguel Padilla-Juarez, Jon Lawrence Reyes, Kenneth Andrew Sarmiento Yuen | Festival Contact: Charlotte Zhang

One of the buzziest premieres at the International Film Festival Rotterdam, *Tycoon* plays as *Miami Vice* for the doom scroll era. A glitchy, dystopian portrait of the City of Angels.

Defiantly DIY in spirit, *Tycoon* marks the debut of Canadian visual artist Charlotte Zhang. Set in 2028 Los Angeles, the film conjures a city gripped by paranoia – beset by cockroach plagues, ICE raids, wildfires, and livestock epidemics. Amid these crises, two young hustlers drift through the sprawl in a stolen car, hatching schemes for survival. Shot on lo-fi digital and Super 8, *Tycoon* unfolds with a restless, freewheeling energy punctuated by kinetic montage sequences and a brilliant soundtrack of synth, doo-wop and Dinah Washington's soul-jazz ballad, "This Bitter Earth," a nod to Charles Burnett's LA classic *Killer of Sheep* (SFF 1978), a touchstone for Zhang's vision.

Screens with *Acetone Reality*

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Still from *Filmstudie* (Hans Richter, 1926)

Jun – Aug
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Rebel, rebel:
The films of Spike Lee

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Still from *Malcolm X* (1992) courtesy Resurgence



The Currents

EUROPE! VOICES OF WOMEN+ IN FILM



The Kidnapping of Arabella



For over a decade, EUROPE! Voices of Women+ in Film has evolved into a vibrant initiative championing diversity and fostering international exchange. As the dedicated media partner of European Film Promotion (EFP), Cineuropa proudly celebrates the richness, vision, and creative power of outstanding European films by women and genderqueer directors. Together, we bring their voices to the global stage, highlighting the breadth and brilliance of storytelling from across the continent.

In radically different, highly individual, and often unexpected ways, these directors with unmistakable authorial signatures confront audiences with boundary-pushing experiences, elusive inner worlds and the fundamental longing to belong – shaping, in an increasingly fractured world, visions of hope and resilience. Their works pose urgent questions about identity, purpose and the search for connection.

In partnership with Sydney Film Festival, Cineuropa and EFP are honoured to spotlight these exceptional talents and present their remarkable work to audiences in Sydney and around the world.

Valerio Caruso, Cineuropa

For additional information on the featured films and filmmakers visit efp-online.com and sff.org.au

Media
Partners



THE CURRENTS LAS CORRIENTES



WED 3 JUN 6:30 PM DNT2
MON 8 JUN 4:45 PM EV3

15+

Switzerland, Argentina | 2025 | 104 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Milagros Mumenthaler | Producers: Eugenia Mumenthaler, David Epiney, Violeta Bava, Rosa Martínez Rivero | Cast: Isabel Aimé González-Sola, Esteban Bigliardi, Claudia Sánchez | Sales Agent: Luxbox

An icy plunge into a Swiss lake unravels something within an Argentine woman in this seductively stylish, existential mystery. Toronto and New York Film Festival 2025.

While in Switzerland to accept an award, fashion designer Lina (Isabel Aimé González Sola) is compelled to plunge, fully clothed, into freezing Lake Geneva. Returning home to Buenos Aires, she senses a profound interior transformation and feels suddenly distant from her daily life with her husband (Esteban Bigliardi, *The Delinquents*, SFF 2023), young daughter, and busy career. Cast adrift, she attempts to move forward. Earning comparisons to Lucrecia Martel and Todd Haynes, Swiss-Argentinian director Milagros Mumenthaler's sophisticated third film is a work of great psychological depth and compelling style, powerfully evocative of Lina's inner world while remaining firmly grounded in tangible reality.

HEYSEL 85



WED 3 JUN 6:30 PM PNORT3
SAT 13 JUN 7:15 PM RITZ3

15+

Belgium, Netherlands, Germany | 2026 | 91 mins | In Dutch, English, Italian and French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Teodora Ana Mihai | Screenwriters: Lode Desmet, Isabelle Darras, Teodora Ana Mihai | Producer: Hans Everaert | Cast: Violet Braeckman, Matteo Simoni, Josse De Pauw | Sales Agent: Salaud Morisset

Violence erupts at a football final, leading to an escalating international crisis in this superbly tense drama based on the 1985 Heysel Stadium disaster. Berlinale 2026.

Football fans descend on Brussels for the 1985 European Cup Final between Juventus and Liverpool. Inside the stadium, the Mayor of Brussels and his daughter/press attaché Marie (Violet Braeckman) brace for kick-off. Meanwhile, Liverpool fans begin to turn on Juventus fans, resulting in catastrophic casualties. The increasingly drunken Mayor is no help in handling the crisis, and Marie has no choice but to step up. Multilingual, she aids in negotiations between police, game officials and politicians as they tackle the impossibly difficult question: cancel the match and risk further riots or let them play on? Teodora Ana Mihai's third feature is a gripping insider view of terrible real-life tragedy.

HOLD ONTO ME



SAT 6 JUN 6:15 PM PNORT3
SUN 7 JUN 1:15 PM DNT3

15+

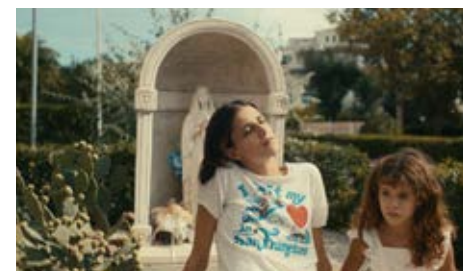
Cyprus, Denmark, Greece | 2026 | 102 mins | In Greek with English subtitles

Director, Screenwriter: Myrsini Aristidou | Producers: Myrsini Aristidou, Monica Nicolaidou | Cast: Christos Passalis, Maria Petrova, Jenny Sallo | Sales Agent: Cercamon

Cypriot director Myrsini Aristidou's splendid debut follows a father and daughter reuniting to form a petty crime duo. Audience Award winner (World Cinema Dramatic), Sundance 2026.

In a seaside town in Cyprus, self-assured 11-year-old Iris (Maria Petrova) spends her summer holidays scooting around with her bestie, filming TikTok dances and fending off boys. When she winds up in trouble with the law for stealing a boat, her absent dad Aris (Christos Passalis, *Dogtooth*) reluctantly resurfaces to bail her out. A chain-smoking drifter living in a shipyard, Aris resists Iris's eager attempts at reconnection. That's until he realises she could come in handy as a sidekick in his hairbrained get-rich schemes. Writer-director Aristidou's *Paper Moon*-esque debut captures their fragile bond beautifully, with wonderfully lived-in performances and confident direction providing believability and nuance.

THE KIDNAPPING OF ARABELLA IL RAPIMENTO DI ARABELLA



FRI 5 JUN 6:15 PM PNORT3
SAT 6 JUN 7:00 PM PALC1

15+

Italy | 2025 | 107 mins | In Italian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Carolina Cavalli | Producers: Antonio Celsi, Annamaria Morelli, Massimiliano Orfei, Luisa Borella, Davide Novelli | Cast: Benedetta Porcaroli, Lucrezia Guglielmino, Chris Pine | Sales Agent: Charades

A seven-year-old girl orchestrates her own abduction to spite her absent-minded father (Chris Pine) in this wry and unpredictable drama. Best Actress Award winner, Venice 2025.

When little Arabella is forced to attend a glitzy gala in celebration of her novelist father, she has an epic meltdown – the *enfant terrible* wanted Taco King! She gets her way when her preoccupied parent, played by the unexpectedly Italian-fluent Chris Pine, sends her off to the taqueria with his driver. Unsupervised in the carpark, Arabella locks eyes with lost soul Holly who, in a fugue state, hallucinates that Arabella is her younger self. Seizing the moment, the fleeing fledgling makes a break for it with her confused kidnapper. Awarded the Best Actress prize at Venice, Italian It girl Benedetta Porcaroli stars as Arabella's accidental smuggler in this runaway romp by sophomore Carolina Cavalli (*Amanda*).



Heysel 85

LA BELLE ANNÉE



THU 4 JUN 6:00 PM PALC1
SUN 7 JUN 6:30 PM PNORT3

15+

Sweden, Norway | 2026 | 95 mins | In French, English and Swedish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Angelica Ruffier | Producers: Brynhildur Þórarinsdóttir, Marta Dauliūtė | Sales Agent: Odd Slice Films

Angelica rediscovers her old diaries – and her teenage crush on a teacher – in this distinctive doc on memory and desire. Prize winner, International Film Festival Rotterdam.

After the death of her father, French-Swedish filmmaker Angelica Ruffier returns to her childhood home in the French countryside; a cavernous house, thick with clutter, obligation and his lingering shadow. As she begins the exhausting work of sorting through a lifetime of belongings, she finds the teenage diaries that revive her secret crush on her history teacher, Mademoiselle B – a stylish sophisticate who resembled Louise Brooks. Where is Mademoiselle B now, she wonders... Should she try to reconnect? In this intimate autobiographical work, Ruffier folds documentary observation into staged reverie to explore grief, desire and queer awakening. Lauded by critics and audiences at IFFR and CPH:DOX.

Screens with *That Which Does Not Exist Does Not Exist*

SORELLA DI CLAUSURA
CLOISTERED SISTER

FRI 5 JUN 8:30 PM DNT2
FRI 12 JUN 8:30 PM PALC1

18+

Romania, Serbia, Italy, Spain | 2025 | 107 mins | In Romanian, English and Serbian with English subtitles
Director: Ivana Mladenović | Screenwriters: Ivana Mladenović, Adrian Schiop, Momir Milošević | Producers: Ada Solomon, Ivana Mladenović | Cast: Katia Pascariu, Cendana Trifan, Miodrag Mladenović | Sales Agent: B Rated International

Katia Pascariu (*Bad Luck Banging or Loony Porn*, SFF 2021) stars in this unashamedly bawdy and wickedly funny Romanian 'rom-com'. Best Film, Sarajevo Film Festival 2025.

Welcome to Romania on the chaotic cusp of the 2008 global financial crisis. Stela (Pascariu) is a Timișoara textile worker who decides it's now or never to act on her lifelong crush on Boban, an ageing Balkan crooner. Leaving her dreadful family and all inhibitions behind, Stela makes a beeline for Bucharest, where her dream of meeting Boban hinges on Vera Pop, a flashy-trashy demicelebrity and sex toy entrepreneur. Taking a cue from the cinema of Radu Jude, with whom writer-director Ivana Mladenović (*Ivana the Terrible*) has previously collaborated, this frisky and fiercely intelligent farce about carnal desire and social dysfunction is described by its maker as "a story suspended between reality and a dream."

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Retreat

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Rebecca McCormack,
Screenability Curator

SCREENABILITY



You Look Fine

All films on this page are accessible:



Check sff.org.au for access details, including audio description and captioning.

JOYBUBBLES



SAT 6 JUN 8:15 PM DNT2 **15+**
WED 10 JUN 6:15 PM DNT2
SAT 13 JUN 4:00 PM PALC1

USA | 2026 | 79 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Rachael J. Morrison | Screenwriters: Will Butler, Patrick Lawrence, Bradford Thomason | Producers: Sarah Winshall, Will Butler, Annie Marr | Sales Agent: Visit Films

Born blind, Joybubbles uses his gift for perfect pitch to manipulate the phone system and make free calls in this exuberant, life-affirming documentary. Sundance 2026.

Driven by a desire for connection and a knack for telecommunications, Josef Carl Engressia Jr. – who legally changed his name to Joybubbles – discovers he can disrupt the global phone network and make free calls by whistling a certain frequency. As one of the original ‘phone phreaks’ (among notable peers like Apple founders Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak), Joybubbles played a crucial role in founding this fascinating subculture. Produced by Sarah Winshall (*I Saw the TV Glow*, SFF 2024), Rachael J. Morrison’s marvellously entertaining debut doc follows Joybubbles’ unforgettable journey, from his challenging childhood to becoming a world-leading phone hacker, while pursuing his dream of independent living.

Screens with *Sarsaparilla*

RETREAT



THU 4 JUN 6:15 PM DNT2 **15+**
SAT 13 JUN 1:15 PM DNT2

UK | 2025 | 107 mins | In English, British and German Sign Language with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter: Ted Evans | Producers: Michelle Stein, Jennifer Monks, Alex Usborne | Cast: Anne Zander, James Joseph Boyle, Sophie Stone | Festival Contact: The Festival Agency

An all-Deaf cast enrich this atmospheric thriller in which a young woman arrives at a remote wellness retreat for Deaf people where nothing is as it seems. Toronto 2025.

Eva (Anne Zander), a young woman from Berlin, seeks connection and a chance to escape her past at a secluded Deaf community in the English countryside. The retreat, run by the enigmatic Mia (Sophie Stone), promises to prepare its residents for the harsh realities of the hearing world. But when Eva develops a bond with resident Matt (James Boyle, *Reunion*), this idyllic community begins to unravel as the pair question everything, including their identity and the costs of maintaining a supposedly utopian society. Director Ted Evans makes his feature debut with this groundbreaking thriller that features an all-Deaf cast. Nominated for the Golden Eye Award at the Zurich Film Festival.

Screens with *Trapeze*

YOU LOOK FINE



SUN 7 JUN 2:15 PM DNT2 **15+**
TUE 9 JUN 6:30 PM DNT2

USA | 2025 | 83 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: J. Snow | Producers: J. Snow, Aaliyah Williams, Marlon Wayans, Rick Alvarez | Festival Contact: J. Snow

In this award-winning doc, comedian J. Snow records himself with humour and perseverance to capture the unfiltered realities of living with sickle cell disease.

In this unflinching documentary, comedian J. Snow offers a first-hand account of living with sickle cell anaemia, the frustrations of navigating the health system, and the isolation that accompanies living with a chronic illness. Blending his signature humour with moments of vulnerability, Snow candidly shares the relentless and severe impacts of sickle cell disease. Along the way, he continues to laugh, challenge societal expectations and increase awareness about the condition. Executive produced by Marlon Wayans and featuring appearances by Rashida Olayiwola, Sydney Castillo, and Marcus Henderson (*Get Out, Whiplash*). Winner of the Unstoppable Feature Grand Jury Prize and Unstoppable Audience Award at Slamdance.

Screens with *When You Hear Hoofbeats*

SCREENABILITY SHORTS

SARSAPARILLA

15+

Australia | 2025 | 7 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Andrew Kavanagh | Producer: Alisha Mehra | Cast: Mathew Shanounda, Ethan Symon, John Stretton | Production Company: Bus Stop Films

A sherrif and his outlaw nemesis bond over their love of line dancing.

Screens with *Joybubbles*

TRAPEZE

15+

Australia | 2026 | 9 mins | In English and Australian Sign Language with English subtitles | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Jeremy Lowrenčev | Cast: Jeremy Lowrenčev, Bedelija Lowrenčev | Festival Contact: Jeremy Lowrenčev

An exploration of autonomy, ancestral ties and Deaf identity.

Screens with *Retreat*

WHEN YOU HEAR HOOFBEATS

15+

Australia | 2026 | 9 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Millie Donaldson | Producers: Sara Norman, Finn Hartnett | Cast: Millie Donaldson, James Cerche, Colette Mann | Festival Contact: Sara Norman

A woman struggles to have her symptoms taken seriously and believes she’s been possessed by the devil.

Screens with *You Look Fine*



He Died with a Felafel in His Hand

CLASSICS RESTORED

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Eureka

HE DIED WITH A FELAFEL IN HIS HAND



MON 8 JUN 2:00 PM RITZ5
SAT 13 JUN 6:15 PM DNT2

MA15+

Australia | 2001 | 107 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Richard Lowenstein | Producers: Andrew McPhail, Domenico Procacci, Richard Lowenstein
Cast: Noah Taylor, Emily Hamilton, Romane Bohringer
Australian Distributor: Umbrella Entertainment

Noah Taylor stars in this Australian cult comedy classic, a portrait of chaotic sharehouse life, adapted from John Birmingham's grunge lit memoir. Recently restored in 4K.

Aspiring writer Danny (Taylor, *Shine*, SFF 1996; *Almost Famous*) bounces between a succession of ramshackle sharehouses in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney. Danny and a revolving cast of eccentric housemates somehow find themselves dodging thugs and dirty cops, all while navigating the familiar trials and tribulations of twenty-something life – unpaid rent, bad relationships and cleaning rosters. Director Richard Lowenstein's (*Mystify: Michael Hutchence*, SFF 2019; *Dogs in Space*) offbeat style perfectly captures the absurdity of coming-of-age, the frustration of figuring out where you fit in the world, and the fleeting, dysfunctional friendships that quietly sustain and define young adult lives.

Festival Guest: Richard Lowenstein

QUEEN KELLY



SAT 13 JUN 3:15 PM HOC5

PG

USA | 1929 | 105 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Erich von Stroheim | Producers: Joseph P. Kennedy, Gloria Swanson, Erich von Stroheim
Cast: Gloria Swanson, Seena Owen, Walter Byron | Sales Agent: Kino Lorber

After almost a century, visionary silent director Erich von Stroheim's lavish and unwieldy final film is restored and reimagined, starring the great Gloria Swanson. Venice 2025.

"We didn't need dialogue. We had faces!" So goes the myth of the silent movie star, avowed by the once-famous Norma Desmond. As one of the most important faces in pre-talkie Hollywood, it's ironic that Swanson is remembered most for her many one-liners in *Sunset Boulevard* (also starring von Stroheim). Twenty years prior, the two worked with – and against – one another on their most ambitious and extravagant film to date: *Queen Kelly*. After a chance flirtation, young convent girl Kelly begins a verboten love affair with Queen Regina's betrothed Prince Wolfram. A victim of the censorious Hays Code, the delirious *Queen Kelly* was never completed. Now restored in 4K, von Stroheim's crown jewel is finally staging a comeback.

THE ARCH

DǒNG FÜRÉN



SAT 6 JUN 12:00 PM SLNSW

15+

Hong Kong | 1968 | 95 mins | In Mandarin with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: T'ang Shushuen | Cast: Lisa Lu, Roy Chiao, Hilda Chou | Festival Contact: M+

An early landmark of Hong Kong independent cinema, now gloriously restored, T'ang Shushuen's ravishing debut follows a widow torn between desire and duty. Cannes Classics 2025.

Made when T'ang Shushuen was just 27, *The Arch* is one of the earliest independent films made in Hong Kong. In Qing dynasty China, the widowed Madame Tung has been enshrined as a model of virtue, with an imperial arch soon to be erected in her honour. But when a soldier overseeing its construction arrives, an unspoken attraction unsettles her carefully ordered life – and grows more painful when her daughter also falls for him. Shot by Satyajit Ray cinematographer Subrata Mitra and edited by Les Blank, this exquisite debut turns a tale of repression into something quietly radical – a deeply felt portrait of female longing, social constraint and desire pushed inward until it can no longer be contained.

EUREKA

YURĪKA



MON 8 JUN 2:15 PM DNT3

18+

SUN 14 JUN 11:15 AM SLNSW

Japan | 2000 | 218 mins | In Japanese with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter: Shinji Aoyama | Producer: Takenori Sento | Cast: Koji Yakusho, Aoi Miyazaki, Masaru Miyazaki | Festival Contact: Wowow Inc.

The late Shinji Aoyama's masterful *Eureka*, adored by filmmakers including Bong Joon-ho, remains as powerfully enigmatic as when it debuted in Competition at Cannes in 2000.

One of many extraordinary things about this hypnotic black and white film is that the major action – a tragic hijacking of a bus – takes only a few minutes at the start. Aoyama is more interested in the repercussions, as the three survivors – bus driver Makoto (Yakusho Koji; *Perfect Days*, SFF 2023) and siblings, little sister Kozue and elder brother Naoki – find themselves unable to return to normal life. The children are rendered mute by their trauma but establish a strong connection with Makoto, forming a family unit who attempt a form of resurrection. As Director Bong describes: "It approaches in silence, settles in with unhurried grace, and ultimately stirs the deepest chambers of the heart."

VIVE L'AMOUR

ÀIQĪNG WÀNSUÌ



SUN 7 JUN 12:00 PM SOH

18+

Taiwan | 1994 | 118 mins | In Mandarin with English subtitles
Director: Tsai Ming-liang | Screenwriter: Tsai Ming-liang, Tsai Yi-chun, Yang Pi-ying | Producers: Hu-pin Chung, Hsu Li-kong | Cast: Chen Chao-jung, Lee Kang-sheng, Yang Kuei-mei | Festival Contact: Taiwan Film and Audiovisual Institute

Tsai Ming-liang's 1994 classic follows three lonely souls orbiting an empty Taipei apartment in this sensual portrait of urban alienation. 4K restoration, Venice 2025.

A vacant luxury apartment in Taipei becomes the unlikely meeting point for three strangers drifting through the modern city alone: a real-estate agent, a street vendor and a lonely man (Tsai regular Lee Kang-sheng) who has secretly claimed the apartment as his own. They move around one another in near silence, colliding through chance, sex and private rituals of longing. Winner of the 1994 Venice Golden Lion, Tsai's breakthrough feature announced a major new cinematic voice, already displaying the subtle humour, erotic charge and sense of urban despair characteristic of his work. Sexy, sly and quietly devastating, *Vive L'Amour* is one of the key works of the Taiwanese New Wave, now beautifully restored.

YAM DAABO



WED 3 JUN 6:30 PM PALC1

15+

Burkina Faso | 1987 | 79 mins | In Mòoré with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter: Idrissa Ouédraogo | Producer: Mario Giarazzo | Cast: Aoua Guiraud, Moussa Bologo, Ousmane Sawadogo | Festival Contact: Cineteca di Bologna

One of the great debuts of African cinema, Idrissa Ouédraogo's *Yam Daabo* follows a family seeking land, dignity and freedom in Sankara-era Burkina Faso. 4K restoration.

Yam Daabo marked the auspicious debut of Burkinabé master Idrissa Ouédraogo (*Yaaba*, SFF 1990; *Samba Traoré*, SFF 1993), whose films so often traced the tensions between tradition and modernity. The title means 'the choice' – here, the courageous decision of a family who leave behind their life in the city, dependent on international aid, in favour of a more self-sufficient countryside existence. Once they settle, new tensions emerge, including a heated rivalry between two suitors for the family's daughter. Made during leader Thomas Sankara's revolutionary push for a self-reliant Burkina Faso, this evocative film (scored by the great Francis Bebey) lends political significance to an intimate family story.



SARTORIAL: FASHION ON FILM



Sartorial: Fashion on Film presents a film-lover's survey of seriously stylish cinema, new and old. Exploring the deep connection between fashion and film, the series includes anticipated premieres alongside archival treasures from visionary directors. Expect top designers, high-fashion models, It Girls and famous auteurs. Dress up and take your front-row seat.

Jessica Moraza, Senior Programmer

FRENCH GIRLS



WED 10 JUN 7:15 PM AGNSW

15+

FRI 12 JUN 6:30 PM EV4

SUN 14 JUN 1:45 PM DNT1

Australia | 2026 | 83 mins | In English
World Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Hyun Lee | Producers: Georgia Noe, Hyun Lee | Cast: Mia Kidis, Luca Blasonato, Nash Edgerton
Festival Contact: Georgia Noe

A young woman enters the absurd world of modelling in this Sydney microbudget marvel. The impressive debut feature of Hyun Lee.

Mia (Mia Kidis) is drifting through life working on construction sites when she's scouted by a Sydney model agent. Suddenly, she's making more money than ever while working less – something her boyfriend loves to point out. Mia quietly observes this strange new world of modelling with deep uncertainty. Is this really the life she wants? With one curious turn after another, she finds herself in trouble with the law. Full of insouciance, familiar local talent and gorgeously shot by cinematographer Dimitri Zaunders (*The Golden Spurtle*, SFF 2025), *French Girls* is an irresistibly charming, refreshingly perceptive take on societal representations of femininity and the disappointing realities of labour.

Screens with *That Which Does Not Exist Does Not Exist* (14 June only)

Festival Guest: Hyun Lee and members of the film team.

JANE B. PAR AGNÈS V.



SUN 14 JUN 10:15 AM AGNSW

18+

France | 1988 | 98 mins | In French with English subtitles

Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Agnès Varda | Sales Agent: MK2 Films

Agnès Varda's portrait of Jane Birkin offers a playful and kaleidoscopic view of the pop icon, the ultimate It Girl whose influence traversed music, fashion and film.

When Varda met Birkin their lives were in a similar orbit, as artists and mothers of teenage children. Birkin expressed trepidation about her upcoming 40th birthday and Varda responded by proposing to film her portrait as a gift. Uninterested in crafting the usual biopic full of famous faces and historical pictures, Varda opted to view Birkin through her various roles, from Jeanne d'Arc to Calamity Jane, and even a nod to the namesake Hermès bag she inspired. By exploring Birkin's life through a sideways glance at her filmography, Varda also illuminates her own life. The resulting film is unlike any other biography – unpredictable, insightful and personal; a charming exploration of femininity and identity.

MARC BY SOFIA



SAT 6 JUN 3:00 PM AGNSW

15+

THU 11 JUN 6:30 PM EV5
SAT 13 JUN 2:15 PM RITZ1

USA | 2025 | 87 mins | In English
Australian Premiere

Director: Sofia Coppola | Producers: Jane Cha Cutler, Sofia Coppola, R.J. Cutler, Elise Pearlstein, Trevor Smith
Sales Agent: A24

In her first ever documentary, Sofia Coppola crafts a personal portrait of her longtime friend, fashion designer Marc Jacobs, laden with candid insights. Venice 2025.

Sofia Coppola and Marc Jacobs first met in 1993, when Jacobs was still designing for Perry Ellis. Their mutual appreciation has held fast ever since, with Coppola serving as a longtime muse and collaborator for Jacobs. Now, Coppola turns her perceptive eye on the designer, delivering illuminating insight into his success story, creative process and rich range of influences across art, film and fashion. Charting a line from the early '90s grunge days, to Jacobs's influential stint at Louis Vuitton, all the way to a behind-the-scenes peek into his recent collections, *Marc by Sofia* offers a pleasurable pop culture odyssey spanning three decades. An intimate delight for fans of both the designer and the director.

MODEL



SAT 6 JUN 10:15 AM AGNSW

15+

USA | 1980 | 129 mins | In English

Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Frederick Wiseman
Production Company: Ziporah Films

The late, great master Frederick Wiseman observes all the runways, shoots, blunt feedback and goings-on at a top 1980's New York modelling agency in this recently restored doc.

Wiseman discovers the ins and outs of the modelling industry, casting his camera on leading New York City modelling agency Zoli. A mesmerising survey of the many casting calls, client negotiations, advertising shoots and runway shows that make up a regular day's work in this bustling business, *Model* is another characteristically illuminating entry in Wiseman's venerable filmography. Nothing is held back as prospective models at the agency are evaluated to their face: too short, not the right look, try again later. Revealing America at its most hypercommercial and image obsessed, the film brilliantly captures the unique energy of New York on the cusp of the 1980s, with Andy Warhol even making a cameo.

NOTEBOOK ON CITIES AND CLOTHES



SUN 7 JUN 3:00 PM AGNSW

M

West Germany, France | 1989 | 81 mins | In English and Japanese with English subtitles

Director, Screenwriter: Wim Wenders | Producers: Wim Wenders, Ulrich Felsberg | Festival Contact: Salaud Morisset

Director Wim Wenders befriends designer Yohji Yamamoto and reflects on the parallels between filmmaking and fashion in this intimate diary film, shot between Tokyo and Paris.

Tasked by the Centre Pompidou in Paris to make a film about fashion, Wim Wenders chooses revolutionary Japanese designer Yohji Yamamoto as his subject. Wenders knew little about the fashion world but had once bought a few Yohji pieces that made him feel "more me than before". From that personal connection, he creates a thoughtful, free-flowing portrait of an artist whose avant-garde silhouettes and signature aesthetics revolutionised fashion in the 1980s and beyond. Moving between Paris and Tokyo, ateliers and city streets, *Notebook on Cities and Clothes* is more than just a profile – it's a moving reflection on creativity, self-expression and the way clothes can shape how we see ourselves.



French Girls

PRÊT-À-PORTER



MON 8 JUN 10:15 AM AGNSW

M

USA | 1994 | 133 mins | In English and French with English subtitles

Director, Producer: Robert Altman | Screenwriters: Robert Altman, Barbara Shulgasser | Cast: Sophia Loren, Marcello Mastroianni, Julia Roberts | Australian Distributor: Paramount Pictures Australia, Print Owner: UCLA Film & Television Archive

Sophia Loren, Marcello Mastroianni, Julia Roberts and more light up this riotous, star-studded '90s fashion farce from Robert Altman, shot during Paris Fashion Week.

Altman's *Prêt-à-Porter* is a fashion-world frenzy – a sprawling satire filmed amid the real-life theatrics of Paris Fashion Week. With glitzy runway shows, bitchy backstage antics and an all-star ensemble cast featuring Julia Roberts, Tim Robbins, Kim Basinger and Lauren Bacall, the film favours atmosphere, spectacle and delicious deviance over conventional plot. Folding in a who's who of '90s fashion figures – among them Jean-Paul Gaultier, Issey Miyake, Helena Christensen and Claudia Schiffer – it approaches this world with bemusement and curiosity. Arriving after Altman's critical triumphs *The Player* and *Short Cuts*, *Prêt-à-Porter* was unkindly maligned on release and is now ripe for rediscovery.

35mm collection print courtesy of the UCLA Film & Television Archive

USELESS



SAT 13 JUN 10:15 AM AGNSW

15+

China | 2007 | 81 mins | In Mandarin and Chinese Regional Dialects with English subtitles

Director, Screenwriter: Jia Zhangke | Producers: Yu Lik-wai, Zhao Tao, Youyishanren | Festival Contact: Fabula Entertainment

Acclaimed auteur Jia Zhangke (*Caught by the Tides*, SFF 2024) documents China's clothing industry from three perspectives: factory workers, a fashion designer, and a tailor.

In *Useless*, Jia Zhangke traces the human cost of China's industrial transformation through the world of clothing. He begins in the garment factories of Guangdong, where workers toil over sewing machines for little pay, before shifting to Paris, where haute couture designer Ma Ke presents her handmade collection *Wu Yong* ('useless'), conceived in defiance of mass production. The documentary's final movement returns to Jia's native Shanxi, where a tailor reflects on abandoning his fading trade for the coal mines. Moving with quiet precision between workshop, runway and rural town, Jia creates a subtle and humanistic portrait of labour, class and the widening distance between tradition and modernity.

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THE TROPICAL TRAIL:

A PROGRAM OF BRAZILIAN FILMS
CURATED BY KLEBER MENDONÇA FILHO

I enjoy putting together programs of Brazilian films and sharing them with cinema audiences around the world. Each invitation for a “carte blanche” requires some specific ideas, like thinking you know who the audience is (no one can ever be sure) and picturing the venue where the films will be screened. You also hope for good chemistry within a group of films which are essentially all very different with your assigned audience.

For the Sydney Film Festival – which I have come to know quite well over the years as a filmmaker – I thought this might be an exciting opportunity to curate a list of Brazilian films I love and which might establish a strong connection with the Australian audience. I wonder how these films will play in that wonderful screening room at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, where I saw *The Heartbreak Kid* last year!

The films in this program are both steeped in history and in contemporary images, short films and features. Brazil is a huge country, its diverse culture, its beauty and the irony of its inequality, its violence. Above all, my country’s capacity to express love and affection, our spectacular panorama of human faces, these are all ideas I bear in mind.

Some of the films might be seen as crowd pleasers and classics, others might leave you shocked and dismayed. They might move you to tears. One film, *Man Marked for Death, Twenty Years Later* (*Cabra Marcado Para Morrer*, 1984), by Eduardo Coutinho, is the title I always show, no matter where. Programs may vary, but that one film will always be there. I really think every time it screens, something happens, someone in the audience makes a great discovery. And when that happens, a little more is revealed about the truth of Brazil and the world.

I would like to thank Festival Director Nashen Moodley for the invitation and to all the programming team who made it happen. Obrigado.

By **Kleber Mendonça Filho**, curator

BLACK GOD, WHITE DEVIL

DEUS E O DIABO NA TERRA DO SOL



WED 3 JUN 7:30 PM AGNSW

18+

Brazil | 1964 | 120 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles

Director, Screenwriter: Glauber Rocha | Producers: Luiz Augusto Mendes, Glauber Rocha, Jarbas Barbosa | Cast: Geraldo Del Rey, Yoná Magalhães, Othon Bastos | Festival Contact: Lino Meireles

If some have seen it, this is an opportunity to see it again in a strong 4K restoration. For the many who have not seen it, here is the pleasure of making a discovery.

Glauber and his wonderful collaborators had in mind some sort of reaction to the international success of *O Cangaceiro* (*The Bandit*, 1953), a film by Lima Barreto distributed by Columbia Pictures. It was shot in São Paulo, in the southeast, for a story set in the northeast of Brazil. Rocha’s film was shot in the northeast and it seems to go against every trope embraced by a more classic type of western, while still being essentially a western. Its iconic characters Corisco, the White Devil, Antonio das Mortes, the original artwork, the soundtrack by Sergio Ricardo, the impact this film had on Brazilian cinema and how our films are perceived internationally through the Cinema Novo movement, heavily influenced by Italian Neo-Realism. And to think that Glauber was shooting this film at the same time Eduardo Coutinho began work on *Man Marked for Death*, in the same northeast region...

THE HOUR AND TURN OF AUGUSTO MATRAGA

A HORA E A VEZ DE AUGUSTO MATRAGA



SUN 7 JUN 10:15 AM AGNSW

18+

Brazil | 1965 | 109 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles

Directors: Roberto Santos, Gianfrancesco Guarnieri
Screenwriter: Roberto Santos | Producers: Roberto Santos, Nelson Pereira dos Santos, Luiz Carlos Barreto | Cast: Leonardo Villar, Jofre Soares, Maria Ribeiro | Rights Holder: L.C Barreto, Produções Cinematográficas

Shot like a western and set in the ‘sertão’ of Minas Gerais from a short story by Guimarães Rosa, Santos’ wonderful character study shows Augusto Matraga’s rebirth through religion after a life of violence.

Leonardo Vilar plays a man who never really makes the transition between good, evil and justice-abiding, stuck in a fascinating (and unnerving) middle ground. Unforgettable title track sung and performed by Geraldo Vandré. 4K Restoration.

SÃO PAULO, INCORPORATED

SAO PAULO SOCIEDADE ANÔNIMA



SUN 7 JUN 12:30 PM AGNSW

15+

Brazil | 1965 | 109 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles

Director, Screenwriter: Luis Sérgio Person | Producer: Renato Magalhães Gouveia | Cast: Walmor Chagas, Eva Wilma, Ana Esmeralda | Festival Contact: Cineteca di Bologna

The city and state of São Paulo somehow became Brazil’s main economic machine in the 20th century, the source of the country’s industrialisation, a magnet for people from all over the country to come and find work.

This taut chronicle of life in the mid-1960s in the Brazilian megalopolis is a work of fiction with great performances by Walmor Chagas, Eva Wilma and Darlene Glória. It is also a terrific document of a country reshaped by industry. 4K restoration.

LÚCIO FLÁVIO: THE PASSENGER OF AGONY

LÚCIO FLÁVIO - O PASSAGEIRO DA AGONIA



MON 8 JUN 12:50 PM AGNSW

18+

Brazil | 1977 | 125 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles

Director: Héctor Babenco | Screenwriters: José Louzeiro, Héctor Babenco, Jorge Durán | Producer: Ignácio Gerber
Cast: Reginaldo Faria, Ana Maria Magalhães, Milton Gonçalves | Production Company: HB Filmes

A blockbuster seen by over five million Brazilians in 1978, this violent thriller tells the real-life story of Lúcio Flávio (strong performance by Reginaldo Farias), a bank robber described by the press as “the good-looking criminal”.

In a racist media society, the green-eyed Lúcio Flávio became a sensation. Adapted from the book by José Louzeiro and released during the intense period of censorship by the military regime, Babenco captured the zeitgeist by making a film structured around the concept of torture and “death squads” by security forces but without featuring the military. Babenco was allowed to release the film with cuts on the condition that a closing card should state that whatever bad cops there might be in the story, they all certainly had to deal with the swift justice system. That card was used in the original theatrical release and later removed for home video and TV, but has been reinstated for the uncut 4K restoration as a historical artefact. Tough and riveting.

CINEMA, ASPIRINS AND VULTURES

CINEMA ASPIRINAS E URUBUS



MON 8 JUN 3:15 PM AGNSW

15+

Brazil | 2005 | 99 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles

Director: Marcelo Gomes | Screenwriters: Paulo Caladas, Karim Ainouz, Marcelo Gomes | Producers: Chico Ribeiro, Maria Ionescu, João Vieira Jr., Ofir Figueiredo | Cast: João Miguel, Peter Ketnath, Hermila Guedes | Production Company: Carnaval Filmes

A German sales representative for Bayer (Peter Ketnath) sells aspirins by travelling around the Pernambuco outback in 1942.

He also shows publicity films for his new customers in makeshift little open-air cinemas and befriends a local man (João Miguel), language barriers and all. The stark film cinematography by Mauro Pinheiro enhances both the human interaction and the historical background (Germany was about to become an enemy of Brazil during the second world war.). The film is as much about friendship as it is about the harsh light of the sertão region.

BRAZILIAN SHORTS

I am proud to be screening this program of Brazilian short films for the Sydney audience. These films will hopefully play as an album of pictures as diverse, unexpected, crazy and beautiful as Brazil itself.

We open with the great Joaquim Pedro de Andrade's *Vereda Tropical* (*The Tropical Trail*, 1977). Originally made as his contribution to the omnibus feature length project *Contos Eróticos* (*Erotic Tales*, 1977), with four short films adapted from award-winning short stories published on Status – a well known men's magazine. *Vereda Tropical* was shot in the lovely island of Paquetá just off the coast in Rio, its main character played by Claudio Cavalcanti is a man sexually attracted to fruits and vegetables...

The iconic artwork for *Contos Eróticos* is a reference to Andrade's film, a large watermelon with a slit in the middle, a striking and politically daring film poster displayed in commercial cinemas in broad daylight during the military regime. A remarkable set of ideas and images of eroticism link this wonderful film to Tsai Ming-liang's *The Wayward Cloud*, made 25 years later in Taipei.

Ilha das Flores (*Flower Island*, 1989) is a short film blockbuster in Brazil made by Porto Alegre based filmmaker and writer Jorge Furtado. It is shown in schools and it follows the misadventures of a tomato through the kind of hyper-montage style that would later be

made popular by films such as Scorsese's *Goodfellas* (1990) and Jeunet's *Amélie* (2001). A strong, sardonic but humanistic film about capitalism and inequality. Juliano Dornelle's *Mens Sana in Corpore Sano* (2011) moves into body horror using Recife as backdrop. An obsessive body builder gradually loses control over his own body. A cinematic gem which leads us into *A Gente Acaba Aqui* (*We End Here*, 2021) by Everlane Moraes, from Bahia. An intimate chronicle with images of a family gathering, the goodbye to Everlane's uncle. A personal film, a family video, the documentation of a funeral in 21st-century Brazil.

Cao Guimarães' gorgeous six-minute observation of children playing out on the street, shot from a hotel window is the kind of filmmaking pulled out of thin air. *Da Janela do Meu Quarto* (*From My Bedroom Window*, 2004) is the dreamy reality of life on camera. Children are also a strong element in Tião's amazing visual mystery of a film, *Muro* (*Wall*, 2008). The references to Lynch or Jodorowsky are probably too distant to even mention, but one might even see some Australian cinema in its very Brazilian images. Tião's film is strong visually and in atmosphere, the union of the Brazilian sertão region and space travel, childhood and the acts of walking and breathing.

By Kleber Mendonça Filho, curator

SAT 6 JUN 1:00 PM AGNSW

99 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles

THE TROPICAL TRAIL

VEREDA TROPICAL



Brazil | 1977 | 24 mins

Director: Joaquim Pedro de Andrade | Screenwriters: Joaquim Pedro de Andrade, Pedro Maia Soares
Producer: César Memolo | Cast: Cláudio Cavalcanti, Cristina Aché, Carlos Galhardo | Rights Holder: Filmes do Serro LTDA

FLOWER ISLAND

ILHA DAS FLORES



Brazil | 1989 | 12 mins

Director: Jorge Furtado | Screenwriters: Cecília Meireles, Jorge Furtado | Producers: Monica Schmiedt, Nora Goulart, Giba Assis Brasil | Production Company: Casa de Cinema de Porto Alegre Ltda.

MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO



Brazil | 2011 | 22 mins

Director, Screenwriter: Juliano Dornelles | Producers: Kleber Mendonça Filho, Juliano Dornelles, Daniel Bandeira | Festival Contact: Juliano Dornelles

WE END HERE

A GENTE ACABA AQUI



Brazil | 2021 | 13 mins

Director, Producer, Festival Contact: Everlane Moraes

FROM MY BEDROOM WINDOW

DA JANELA DO MEU QUARTO



Brazil | 2004 | 6 mins

Director, Screenwriter, Festival Contact: Cao Guimarães

WALL

MURO



Brazil | 2008 | 18 mins

Director, Screenwriter: Tião | Producers: Livia de Melo, Tathianne Quesado | Cast: Inaê Veríssimo, Maria Nadir, José Humberto | Festival Contact: Tião

MAN MARKED FOR DEATH, TWENTY YEARS LATER

CABRA MARCADO PARA MORRER



SAT 13 JUN 12:15 PM AGNSW

18+

Brazil | 1984 | 120 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles

Director, Screenwriter: Eduardo Coutinho | Producers: Eduardo Coutinho, Zelito Viana | Rights Holder: Mapa Filmes

A masterpiece of Brazilian cinema, this is quite a filmgoing experience. The Teixeira family was torn apart by political violence in the 1960s.

Coutinho's film investigates the human cost. It's a film that morphed into another through 20 years of Brazilian political history. Originally a feature film shot in 1964 with land workers from the peasant league as actors, it was thought out as a reconstruction of the events that lead to the assassination of João Pedro Teixeira, political leader and family man in Sairé, Paraíba, dismissed as a dangerous communist radical by land owners and the conservative government. Halfway through the shoot, the military coup happened in March/April 1964, production was shut down, equipment and film stock confiscated. Eduardo Coutinho went back 20 years later to reconnect (towards the end of the regime) with what was left of that family. We soon realize that the widow and mother of nine is one of cinema's most amazing female characters: Elizabetha Teixeira, who is now 100 years old in 2026, a force of nature. Fiction, documentary, essay, an unforgettable film. I never really miss an opportunity to screen *Cabra Marcado Para Morrer*, in Brazil or abroad. Happy to screen it at SFF

CENTRAL STATION

CENTRAL DO BRASIL



SAT 13 JUN 2:45 PM AGNSW

M

Brazil, France | 1998 | 110 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles

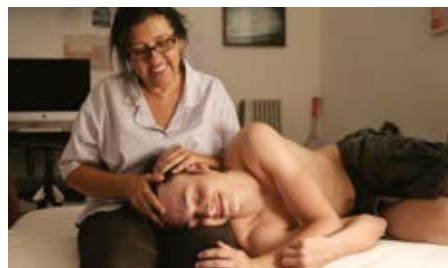
Director: Walter Salles | Screenwriter: João Emanuel Carneiro, Marcos Bernstein | Producers: Arthur Cohn, Martine de Clermont-Tonnerre, Walter Salles | Cast: Fernanda Montenegro, Vinicius de Oliveira, Marília Pêra
Sales Agent: Playtime

A beautiful melodrama, this crowdpleaser classic is wonderfully acted by Fernanda Montenegro, and Vinicius de Oliveira, she is a retired teacher in her 60s and letter writer for hire at Rio's central railway station, he is a 12-year-old orphan.

They might be read as two sharp representations of a divided Brazil, the southeast and the northeast. The widescreen cinematography by Walter Carvalho keeps Brazil in frame as the third main character. Walter Salles would do another classic in *I'm Still Here* (2024) just recently. 4K Restoration.

THE SECOND MOTHER

QUE HORAS ELA VOLTA?



SUN 14 JUN 12:30 PM AGNSW

M

Brazil | 2014 | 112 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles

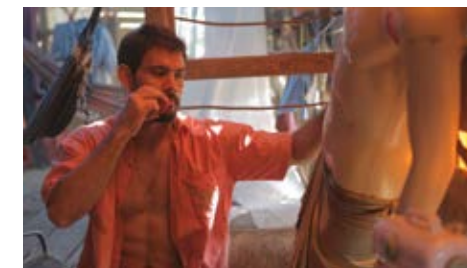
Director, Screenwriter: Anna Muylaert | Producers: Caio Gullane, Fabiano Gullane, Débora Ivanov, Anna Muylaert
Cast: Regina Casé, Michel Joelsas, Camila Márdila
Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

The housemaid (Regina Casé) at an affluent family's home in São Paulo shares the information with her boss that her young daughter (Camila Márdila) will be coming from the Northeast to stay for a few weeks.

She will be doing exams for a prestigious architecture school. The barely literate mother and her well-read daughter stand for some of the cultural and political changes Brazil has gone through over the last 25 years, particularly in the way the northeast of Brazil is seen through the lens of internal xenophobia and prejudice. I saw this sharp observation of class tension in an upper class shopping mall multiplex, the audience had been trained over so many years to identify with the well-to-do family in popular TV comedies released as films. Slowly, they came to realise with frozen grins on their faces that the heroes in this film are the employees, that the maid is not just comic relief and that the humour and the drama come from witnessing society change before our eyes.

NEON BULL

BOI NEON



SUN 14 JUN 2:45 PM AGNSW

R18+

Brazil | 2015 | 101 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles

Director, Screenwriter: Gabriel Mascaro | Producer: Rachel Ellis | Cast: Juliano Cazarré, Maeve Jinkings, Josinaldo Alves
Sales Agent: Paradise City Sales

The unique images of the Brazilian sertão seen in this program in *Black God*, *White Devil*, *Central Station*, *Wall*, *Cinema*, *Aspirins* and *Vultures* or *Augusto Matraga* expand in new ways in Gabriel Mascaro's *Neon Bull*.

The backdrop is the garment industry in the Pernambuco outback. Masculinity gets a full remix which denies the traditional male/female role models here. Widescreen photography suggests futurism and soon we understand that this is another unique take on culture and on a familiar landscape which has never quite been shown this way.



Barbara Forever

BARBARA HAMMER: RADICAL VISIBILITY



Double Strength

*"Touching another woman's body
changed my life. It had to be shown."*

– Barbara Hammer

Pioneering lesbian and feminist icon Barbara Hammer (1939–2019) didn't just make films, she reinvented what cinema could be.

Born in Los Angeles, Hammer was exposed to the film industry from an early age. Her mother hoped she would become a child star like Shirley Temple, but she had other ideas. After studying psychology and travelling the world with her husband, she came out as a filmmaker and as a lesbian.

She forged a radical and deeply personal body of work that placed lesbian experience, desire and identity at its centre, at a time when such images were largely absent from the screen. She developed a distinctly experimental language that moved between sensuality, politics and autobiography. Covering themes of sexuality, the body, the fragility of light, illness, mortality, activism, resistance and the rewriting of history, her work continually reshaped her practice while remaining committed to visibility and making cinema tactile.

Three of her short films have won the prestigious Teddy Award at the Berlinale, and institutions including the Museum of Modern Art and the Tate have exhibited her work.

As more audiences discover Hammer through Brydie O'Connor's documentary *Barbara Forever*, screening at SFF 2026, it's the perfect opportunity to explore 19 of the more than 80 films she made across a five-decade career. The program includes her groundbreaking features *Nitrate Kisses* and *History Lessons*, alongside two short film packages showcasing both her early avant-garde works and the breadth of her experimental practice.

Introduction and film notes by **Lisa Rose**, curator.

Courtesy of the Estate of Barbara Hammer, New York and Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI), New York.

BARBARA FOREVER



WED 3 JUN 6:15 PM DNT1
SAT 6 JUN 3:30 PM EV3

USA | 2026 | 102 mins | In English

Director: Brydie O'Connor | Producers: Elijah Stevens, Brydie O'Connor, Claire Edelman | Festival Contact: The Film Collaborative

This Berlinale Teddy Award-winning portrait of lesbian film pioneer Barbara Hammer captures her prolific career and radical vision that reshaped queer and experimental cinema.

Marking the debut feature of Brydie O'Connor, this engaging documentary draws on archival footage, interviews and excerpts from Hammer's filmography. Premiering at Sundance, where it received a well-deserved Editing Award, it reveals an artist driven by curiosity, activism and an unrelenting creative force, whose practice spanned more than 80 works across five decades. Hammer's charisma, humour and intelligence animate the film as she speaks candidly about her process, her politics and her desire to celebrate marginalised people whose stories have not been told. From explicit lesbian erotica to disorienting, strobe-like effects, it captures the enduring influence of an artist who continues to inspire new generations.

18+

BARBARA HAMMER: A VISUAL POET



WED 10 JUN 6:15 PM PALC1

USA | 1968-2015 | 90 mins | In English
Director: Barbara Hammer | Festival Contact: Electronic Arts Intermix

Charting Barbara Hammer's expansive experimental practice, this chronological collection of nine shorts moves from light and the body to technology and personal reckoning.

Spanning her five-decade career (1968–2015), Hammer's work unfolds as a tactile exploration of image, sensation and memory. Moving between hand-crafted textures, layered montage, animation and immersive sound, these works are at times explicit and visually intense. Highlights include the playful *No No Nooky T.V.*; the mesmerising, X-ray imagery of *Sanctus*; and her profoundly personal Teddy Award-winning *A Horse Is Not a Metaphor*. Hammer was a restless and inventive visual poet who strived to make the invisible visible.

Shorts in this session: *Contribution to Light*, *Psychosynthesis*, *Our Trip*, *Pools* (co-directed by Barbara Klutinis), *Tourist*, *No No Nooky T.V.*, *Sanctus*, *A Horse Is Not a Metaphor*, *Lesbian Whale*

18+

BARBARA HAMMER: WAS A SUPERDYKE



SUN 7 JUN 4:15 PM PALC1

USA | 1974-1982 | 102 mins | In English
Director: Barbara Hammer | Festival Contact: Electronic Arts Intermix

Sensual and unapologetic, this collection of Barbara Hammer's early shorts celebrates lesbian desire and experimentation, culminating in a revealing audience time capsule.

Spanning the mid-1970s to early 1980s, these six films chart a formative period for Hammer as she develops a bold, distinctly lesbian avant-garde voice. Moving from erotic montage and communal ritual to portraits of lovers and friends, the works explore touch and connection through inventive formal approaches. At times sexually explicit and disorienting in their visual intensity, they challenge cinematic and social conventions. The closing film, *Audience*, captures viewer responses across multiple cities in a candid, sometimes flirty and always engaging snapshot of the era, inviting audiences to reflect on their own responses.

Shorts in this session: *Dyketactics*, *Superdyke*, *Women I Love*, *Double Strength*, *Sync Touch*, *Audience*

18+

HISTORY LESSONS



FRI 12 JUN 6:30 PM DNT2

USA | 2000 | 67 mins | In English
Director, Producer: Barbara Hammer | Festival Contact: Electronic Arts Intermix

With wit and mischief, Barbara Hammer's *History Lessons* playfully reworks archival footage to imagine a world where lesbians were always visible and impossible to ignore.

The final instalment in her experimental "Invisible Histories Trilogy" (*Nitrate Kisses*, also screening at SFF, was first), constructs an irreverent version of lesbian history. Drawing on clips from Hollywood films, newsreels, educational and medical films, vintage explicit erotica, and more, it re-edits and sometimes revoices these materials, transforming their original meanings. Once marginalised or erased sapphic lives are reimagined as evidence of presence and possibility. The film exposes how dominant narratives have excluded, distorted and controlled lesbian representation across history. Both cheeky and incisive, it reveals how images can be reclaimed, reframed and made newly queer. Screens with *Menses*

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NITRATE KISSES



MON 8 JUN 6:20 PM DNT2 **R18+**

USA | 1992 | 67 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Barbara Hammer | Festival Contact: Electronic Arts Intermix

Defiant and groundbreaking, Barbara Hammer's *Nitrate Kisses* (SFF 1993) reclaims erased queer histories through a radical fusion of archival imagery and explicit intimacy.

Acclaimed at Toronto, Sundance and the Berlinale, Hammer's first feature followed more than 60 short films. Created during the AIDS crisis and a surge in LGBTQIA+ activism, it features archival footage, including *Lot in Sodom* (1933), alongside historical texts like the Hays Code, and portraits of gay and lesbian couples. These elements form a counter-history, foregrounding lives long excluded from dominant narratives. Its depiction of sexuality was labelled a "homoerotic film abomination" by right-wing organisations protesting the government grant that supported its production. Blending politics, erotic imagery and experimental form, it endures as a landmark of queer cinema.

Screens with *Snow Job: The Media Hysteria of AIDS*

SHORTS

MENSES



USA | 1974 | 4 mins | In English **18+**
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Barbara Hammer | Festival Contact: Electronic Arts Intermix

A wry take on menstruation, this 1970s Barbara Hammer film blends humour, performance art and feminist politics in a spirited exploration of the body and shared experience.

Screens with *History Lessons*

SNOW JOB: THE MEDIA HYSTERIA OF AIDS



USA | 1986 | 8 mins | In English **18+**
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Barbara Hammer | Festival Contact: Electronic Arts Intermix

A blizzard of deception, headlines, clips and media commentary collide to expose the fear and misinformation that distorted the early public understanding of AIDS.

Screens with *Nitrate Kisses*

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VALE

DAVID STRATTON AM (1939-2025)

Sydney Film Festival, and by extension the very culture of cinema in Australia, would not exist as it does today without the remarkable passion and devotion of David Stratton AM, who was the Festival Director from 1966 until 1983. We remember and honour David at our first Festival without him, and always.

David's achievements are too innumerable to list but would include his incredible tenure as SFF's Festival Director building the Festival to new heights, the successful fight against censorship of films in Australia, the establishment of the Travelling Film Festival, supporting emerging filmmakers from Australia and around the world, and fostering a courageous cinema culture amongst Australian audiences. He is also warmly remembered for co-hosting *The Movie Show* and *At the Movies* with Margaret Pomeranz.

A man of action, it was David who first determined to bring international filmmakers to Australia, negotiated for the Festival to screen at the State Theatre (still its beloved home today), and championed countless Australian auteurs in the early days of their careers, including Gillian Armstrong AM, Baz Luhrmann AC, Phillip Noyce AO, Jane Campion DNZM, Dr George Miller AO, Peter Weir AM among others.

While David led a prolific cinematic life, at heart he was always one of us: an adventurous film lover taking his seat in the cinema, ready for the opening scene. He will be greatly missed.

To learn more about David Stratton's extraordinary life and legacy, including decades of photos, visit: sff.org.au/david



Akira Kurosawa, Michelangelo Antonioni, David Stratton and Satyajit Ray



David Stratton at the State Theatre



George Miller, David Stratton, Peter Weir and Patricia Lovell



SFFTV

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SFFTV returns to Martin Place, offering free screenings of must-see shorts, discounted tickets to hot new films, and sneak peeks of what's on at SFF.



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On your way to a screening or just want a quick flick hit on your way through the city? See a special program of short films uninterrupted.

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SHORT FILMS

The Short Film Program is proudly supported by the Director's Lab.

Find out about the Director's Lab here: sff.org.au/directors-lab



AGORA



WED 3 JUN 8:20 PM RITZ5 15+
FRI 12 JUN 8:30 PM EV3
SUN 14 JUN 6:30 PM DNT1

Australia | 2025 | 12 mins | In English
World Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Matt Wallace | Producer: Lawrence Phelan | Cast: Lucy Elliot, Matt Wallace, Tina Currah | Festival Contact: Matt Wallace

A chance encounter with an online dating match turns awkward when an unexpected presence reveals their true colours. A comedy on moral masking.

Screens with *Mile End Kicks*

GOD SLEEPS ON SUNDAYS



SAT 6 JUN 4:30 PM PALC1 15+
THU 11 JUN 8:30 PM EV11

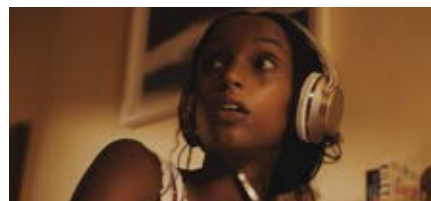
Zimbabwe | 2025 | 19 mins | In Shona with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Naishe Nyamubaya | Producers: Sue-Ellen Chitunya, Sphe Dluclu | Cast: Lerory Siyafa, Tendaishe Chitima, Wizzy Mangoma | Production Company: 263 Reels Productions

A preacher with a past clashes with a traditional healer in this critique of organised religion's impact on traditional belief systems.

Screens with *Soumsoum*, *The Night of the Stars*

HOOYO



SUN 7 JUN 4:30 PM DNT2 15+
SUN 14 JUN 4:15 PM EV3

Australia | 2026 | 11 mins | In English and Somali with English subtitles

Director: Edyll Ismail, Mehmma Malhi | Screenwriter: Edyll Ismail | Producers: Ana Ika, Domenic Anthony, Bella Burton, Edyll Ismail | Cast: Edyll Ismail, Cath Moore | Festival Contact: Edyll Ismail

A letter brings a young woman's grief to the surface, reconnecting her with Somalia and her lost birth mother. Starring Edyll Ismail (*Send Help*).

Screens with *Memory of Princess Mumbi*

HOW TO HIDE IT



THU 4 JUN 8:30 PM EV9 18+
SUN 7 JUN 6:10 PM RITZ3

UK | 2025 | 13 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Directors, Screenwriters: Ramla Ali, Richard A. Moore | Producer: Harry Starkey-Midha | Cast: Ramla Ali, Umar Sadiq, Sahar Awad | Festival Contact: Richard A. Moore

While working a night shift in London, Zahra impulsively buys a lottery ticket, despite her beliefs, and wins! Now, how to hide the news from her family?

Screens with *Animol*

A MAN WHO TAKES PICTURES OF FLOWERS



WED 3 JUN 6:30 PM EV9 ALL AGES
SAT 6 JUN 12:00 PM SOH
SAT 13 JUN 6:30 PM PNORT3

USA, South Korea | 2025 | 13 mins | In Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Yoo Lee | Producers: Yoo Lee, Shenglou Zhang, Shinae Kim-Helms | Festival Contact: Yoo Lee

An interview with photographer, Jung Myung Kim, renowned for shooting flowers, is brought to life in this charming stop-motion animation.

Screens with *Whispers in the Woods*

PARTY TRICKS



FRI 5 JUN 8:20 PM DNT1 15+
SAT 6 JUN 6:30 PM EV4
SAT 13 JUN 7:00 PM RITZ5

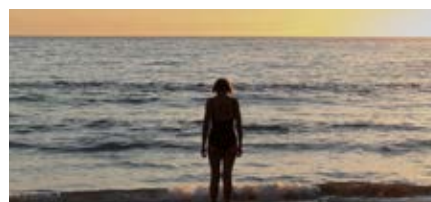
Australia | 2026 | 11 mins | In English | World Premiere

Director: Nash Edgerton | Screenwriter: Kala Ellis | Producers: Michele Bennett, Nash Edgerton | Cast: Chika Yasumura, Zumi Edgerton, Jack Ruwald | Festival Contact: Nash Edgerton

From Dendy alum Nash Edgerton, a young girl gets revenge on her older sister when she stumbles upon the aftermath of a raging party and documents the evidence.

Screens with *Erupcja*

SECOND NATURE



FRI 5 JUN 3:00 PM STATE ALL AGES
SAT 6 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ3
SUN 7 JUN 4:30 PM HOC5

Australia, New Zealand | 2025 | 24 mins | In English
World Premiere

Director, Screenwriter, Producer, Festival Contact: Bridget Ikin

Through home videos, filmmaker Bridget Ikin reflects on her life and relationship with her mother in this raw and poignant autobiography.

Screens with *Sundays*

THE SENTINEL

LA SENTINELLE



WED 10 JUN 8:15 PM DNT2 18+
SUN 14 JUN 4:00 PM EV9

France | 2026 | 29 mins | In French and Arabic with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Ali Cherri | Producers: Rémi Bonhomme, Imane Farès, Didar Dohmeri | Cast: Nahuel Pérez Biscayart, Eric Cantona, Georges (Sbete) Torbey | Production Company: Last Dreams Production

This film by acclaimed artist Ali Cherri follows a burdened soldier as he embarks on a night of freedom. Cannes Critics' Week.

Screens with *Birds of War*

SOCKS



FRI 5 JUN 8:20 PM EV3 15+
SUN 7 JUN 3:45 PM DNT1

New Zealand | 2025 | 15 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Todd Karehana | Producers: Samantha Dutton, Jane Campion | Cast: Monty Walker, Indy Urban, Billy Cox | Festival Contact: Samantha Dutton

In small-town New Zealand, a young Māori boy forms an unexpected bond with a Mormon missionary, tracing a delicate line between innocence, longing, and the search for connection.

Screens with *Strange River*

SOUVENIR



MON 8 JUN 2:00 PM EV3 15+
SAT 13 JUN 2:00 PM RITZ5

Australia | 2025 | 15 mins | In English and French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Renée Marie Petropoulos | Producer: Yingna Lu | Cast: Tanzyn Crawford, Emily Grant, Julian Garner | Festival Contact: Renée Marie Petropoulos

A closeted teen on family vacation must confront her manipulative girlfriend after she takes unwanted photos of her during sex. Winner, SXSW Grand Jury Award.

Screens with *Mouse*

THAT WHICH DOES NOT EXIST DOES NOT EXIST CE QUI N'EXISTE PAS N'EXISTE PAS



THU 4 JUN 6:00 PM PALC1 15+
SUN 7 JUN 6:30 PM PNORT3
SUN 14 JUN 1:45 PM DNT1

France, Belgium | 2026 | 35 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Directors, Screenwriters: Lazare Gousseau, Guillaume Senez, Franck Morand | Producers: Lola Hurel, Nathan Duboutay | Cast: Lazare Gousseau, Hyun Lee, Georgia Noe | Production Company: Les Films Pelleas

While location scouting for Australian filmmakers (Hyun Lee and Georgia Noe, *French Girls*) in the French Alps, Xavier meets a local girl.

Screens with *La Belle Année* and *French Girls* (14 June only).

THE WORM



THU 4 JUN 6:00 PM SOH 18+
SAT 6 JUN 5:15 PM HOC4
SUN 7 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ1

Australia | 2025 | 13 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director: Tom Noakes | Screenwriter: Will Goodfellow | Producers: Adrian Pinto, Will Goodfellow, Tom Noakes, Lucy Gaffy | Cast: Joe Bird, Susie Porter, Heather Mitchell | Festival Contact: Adrian Pinto

A telepathic earthworm controls a young man whose family keep getting in the way of stopping it. Starring Joe Bird (*Leviticus*), Sundance 2026.

Screens with *The Fox*

MORE SHORTS: Check out more short films in the First Nations Award lineup on page 12, the Dendy Awards on page 14, Freak Me Out on page 34, FLUX: Art + Film on page 38 and Screenability on page 42.



**YOU'LL SEE
THE BEATING HEART OF SFF**

THE HUB

AT LOWER SYDNEY TOWN HALL



The Hub at Lower Town Hall is where Sydney Film Festival steps off the screen. Connect with fellow filmgoers and filmmakers, participate in special events and exclusive talks, or grab a drink and a bite to eat with friends as you discuss your Festival faves. The Hub is your space to enjoy your way — you'll see.

**LOWER SYDNEY TOWN HALL
483 GEORGE ST, SYDNEY NSW 2000
ENTRY VIA DRUITT ST**

OPENING HOURS

TUESDAY – FRIDAY _____ **4:30 PM UNTIL LATE**
SATURDAY & SUNDAY _____ **10:30 AM UNTIL LATE**
PUBLIC HOLIDAY MONDAY _____ **11:30 AM UNTIL LATE**

HAPPY HOUR

Enjoy Happy Hour specials on selected beverages between 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM each day of the Festival.

THE HUB – FREE TALKS AND EVENTS:

**TALK | WOMEN IN FILM WITH
ARI WEGNER**

FRI 5 JUN | 5.30 PM | FREE

Join the Screen Vixens annual gathering for a conversation with Academy Award nominated cinematographer Ari Wegner (*The Power of the Dog*). In this special session, Wegner reflects on her career, craft, and navigating a traditionally male-dominated field. Moderated by Aimée Lindorff. Followed by a Screen Vixens and WIFT meet-up for any women passionate about filmmaking!

**TALK | AUSTRALIAARRGHH! HORROR'S
MOMENT IN THE AUSTRALIAN SUN**

SUN 7 JUNE | 1:45PM | FREE

Australian horror has emerged as a defining force in contemporary cinema, with films like *The Babadook*, *Talk to Me* and *Relic* signalling both creative and commercial momentum. This panel explores why the genre is thriving now — and what gives Australian horror its distinctive edge. Join filmmakers from *Leviticus* and *Saccharine*. Moderated by Freak Me Out curator Richard Kuipers.

**TALK | PLATFORM PITCH – FOR FILM'S
SAKE INCUBATOR**

SAT 13 | JUN 11AM | FREE

Back for a fourth year, the For Film's Sake Incubator challenges emerging filmmakers to form new collaborations and develop original projects over just four days. Their ideas will be pitched live to an expert industry jury — complete with on-the-spot feedback and a live audience.

**TALK | THE ACADEMY AWARDS:
A DEEP DIVE**

SAT 6 JUNE | 2PM | FREE

"What's your favourite season? Awards." The Oscar race may be over — but with the first major premieres at Cannes, it's just beginning again. Join us for a lively deep dive into everything you've ever wanted to know about the Academy Awards and more. Red carpet dress optional. With Wenlei Ma (*The Nightly*), Hannah-Rose Yee (*Vogue Australia*) and Nicholas Fonseca (*Stellar*).

**TALK | LOCAL TALENT, GLOBAL
STORYTELLING**

THU 11 JUN | 5.30PM | FREE

Presented by Screen Australia this session explores global storytelling through a uniquely Australian lens, and why international perspective is increasingly vital to the industry. Join Selina Miles (*Silenced*), Camilla Mazzaferro (*Whistle*), and Andy Huang (*Replica*), moderated by Screen Australia's Richard Huddleston.

**EVENT | UMM KULTHUM CELEBRATION
WITH LIVE MUSIC**

SAT 13 JUN | 3.15PM | FREE

An evocative afternoon celebrating the legacy of Umm Kulthum — the diva, the lady, the singer, the legend; whose storytelling through music has shaped generations. Enjoy live music tributes and festivities. This special event will precede a screening of the new film *El Sett*, which chronicles her remarkable life.

EVENT | LETTERBOXD USER MEET-UP

SAT 6 JUNE | 4PM | FREE

What are your four favourites? Meet up with fellow film fans from around Sydney and afar and chat about your picks for the Festival (and for life). Enjoy the pop-up bar, special fun and games, and giveaways whilst filling up your watchlist.

**TALK | SHORT STORY LONG: FROM
SHORTS TO FEATURES**

FRI 12 JUN | 5.30PM | FREE

This year, the Festival welcomes back a number of Dendy alumni with new feature films, alongside works emerging from short film initiatives supported by Screen NSW and Screen Australia's First Nations Department. This panel brings together filmmakers and key industry partners to explore the journey from short to feature filmmaking and the realities of taking that next step.

**EVENT | DENDY AWARDS CEREMONY
AND CELEBRATION**

**SAT 13 JUN | 5PM | FREE ENTRY WITH ANY
TICKET TO 13 JUNE DENDY SHORTS SCREENING**

Following a screening of all short films nominated for the Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films at Event Cinemas (see page 14), find out the winners of five prestigious cash prizes, and celebrate alongside Australia's most exciting filmmakers.

EVENT | THE WORLD'S BEST WHISTLE

SUN 7 JUNE | 11.30AM | FREE

Just purse your lips and blow. That easy right? Tell that to the pros. Following the Australian premiere of *Whistle*, the hit new documentary about the contest to become the World Whistling Champion, hear a genuinely dazzling live demonstration by some of the participants from the film... and perhaps you'll get a chance to show off your own skills!

**EVENT | FRENCH GIRLS – PREMIERE
PARTY**

FRI 12 JUNE | 8.30PM | FREE

Strike a pose. Following a premiere screening of the new Australian film *French Girls*, join members of the film team for a très chic celebration in honour of the new film, and the entire *Sartorial: Fashion on Film* program strand (page 44).

SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE HUB AND BEYOND

microWAVE 2026: BUDGET FILMMAKING TALK SERIES



microWAVE returns in 2026 with a series of microbudget filmmaking talks, panels and hands-on workshops. Join us for any or all sessions on vertical content, creative AI and First Nations perspectives. Hear from international and Australian filmmakers, academics, journalists and industry insiders as they unravel new forms and models of microbudget production.

An extended program will take place at UTS on 4 and 5 June. See sff.org.au/microwave for more details. The final day of talks will be hosted at The Hub, with filmmakers and film fans alike:

microWAVE AT THE HUB

10.30AM – 1.30PM | SAT 6 JUN | THE HUB | FREE

Presented in partnership with UTS Creative Practice Research Group, microWAVE 26 brings together a series of conversations exploring bold, independent filmmaking.

10.30AM | MICROBUDGET CHAMPION: MARK JENKIN

Featuring international voices including microbudget champion Mark Jenkin (*Bait*, SFF 2019; *Rose of Nevada*, SFF 2026), this session examines the creative possibilities and challenges of working outside the traditional system. Mark will appear online while *Rose of Nevada* Executive Producer Neil Fox will appear in person

11.30AM | MICROBUDGET FILMMAKING: AESTHETICS OF THE POSSIBLE

The Screen Show comes to the Festival as host Jason Di Rosso leads a candid discussion with filmmakers on the highs and lows of low-budget production. Featuring voices from across the program, including Hyun Lee (*French Girls*), Anthony Frith (*Mockbuster*) and 2025 alumni Christian Byers (*Death of an Undertaker*).

12.30PM | AI AND THE BUDGET FILMMAKER

What does AI offer filmmakers working with limited resources whilst honouring the work of artists? This forward-looking discussion considers how emerging technologies are reshaping creative workflows, opening new possibilities for storytelling at the lowest budget levels.

Presented in partnership with:



SFF FILM TRIVIA NIGHTS



MON 8 JUNE | 7PM | THE HUB | \$10 PER PERSON
TUES 9 JUNE | 7PM | THE HUB | \$10 PER PERSON

Sydney's most prestigious film trivia trophy is back up for grabs! Hosted by the walking film encyclopedia and comedian Alexei Toliopoulos, featuring live music and big prizes, you won't want to miss this film-fact-filled night of frivolity! Free beer or wine on arrival for all guests.

REFUSED CLASSIFICATION



THU 11 JUN | 8PM | DARLING QUARTER THEATRE | \$45

Margaret and David are two of the biggest reviewers in Australia. They get to watch as many movies as they want. Everything is going awesome... until the government tries to ban a little film called *Ken Park* at the 2003 Sydney Film Festival.

The hit live show that sold out comedy festivals across Australia returns for one night only. Comedians and film lovers Zachary Ruane and Alexei Toliopoulos recount this little nugget of Australian history in this outrageous hybrid of comedy show, documentary and verbatim theatre.

IN CONVERSATION WITH PETER WEIR

The 2026 Ian McPherson Lecture



WED 10 JUNE | 5.30PM | THE HUB | FREE

Presented in partnership with the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS), this year's Ian McPherson Lecture is a landmark celebration of a lifetime of screen achievement. The evening will see legendary Oscar-winning filmmaker Peter Weir receive AFTRS' inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award, recognising his extraordinary contribution to Australian and international cinema, including modern classics such as *Gallipoli*, *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, *Dead Poets Society* and *The Truman Show*. Following the presentation, Weir joins Rob Carlton for a fireside conversation, reflecting on a body of work that has shaped generations of filmmakers and carried Australian stories onto the world stage.

MASTERCLASS WITH KLEBER MENDONÇA FILHO



SAT 13 JUN | 1.30PM | FREE

Join recent Oscar nominee for Best Picture (*The Secret Agent*) and this year's Official Competition Jury President Kleber Mendonça Filho for an in-depth masterclass on his distinctive approach to storytelling. From shaping atmosphere to interrogating history and place, Mendonça Filho offers insights into a career that has redefined contemporary Brazilian cinema.

DRINK & DINE DEALS

FOR SFF TICKET HOLDERS

Movie and a meal? How about a cocktail? We've partnered with Sydney's best restaurants and bars to offer exclusive drink and dining experiences throughout Sydney Film Festival, 3-14 June.

Cafe Sydney is a proud partner of SFF and welcomes all Festivalgoers.

HOW IT WORKS:

Mention "Sydney Film Festival Restaurant Partners" when booking or show your SFF ticket on arrival.

Discount provided only on the day of your screening. Dates are valid 3-14 June and are not available in conjunction with any other offers.

ABODE BISTRO. BAR



\$65 PP

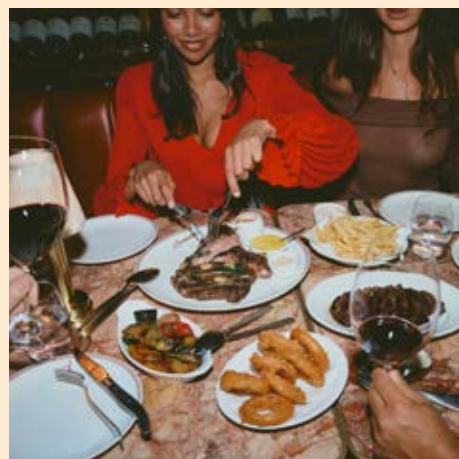
ENJOY A CHOICE OF MAIN PLUS COMPLIMENTARY ANTIPASTO PLATTER AND SOURDOUGH BREAD.

PARKROYAL Darling Harbour, 150 Day Street, Sydney (02) 9260 2945 | abodebistro.com

Located on Bathurst Street, ABODE Bistro. Bar is just moments from the State Theatre and Sydney's CBD theatres. Enjoy modern Australian cuisine crafted with local, seasonal produce and refined through contemporary techniques. Rooted in a philosophy of honest, elegant food designed to bring people together, ABODE offers an elevated yet welcoming dining experience.

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible.

ARMORICA GRANDE BRASSERIE



\$50 OFF BILLS OF \$250 OR MORE | \$100 OFF BILLS OF \$500 OR MORE. REDEEMABLE ON FULL-PRICED ITEMS ONLY.

**490 Crown Street, Surry Hills
(02) 9145 2990 | armorica.com.au**

Named after the ancient Celtic region that spanned into what would later become Paris, Armorica pays homage to the city of Paris and the cuisine of its surrounding regions. Armorica Grande Brasserie offers a unique dining experience, seamlessly blending French culinary traditions with a vibrant atmosphere, perfect for any occasion.

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible.

BARONS RESTAURANT



ENJOY A COMPLIMENTARY CANAPÉ ON ARRIVAL WITH A RESERVATION.

**52 Bridge Street, Sydney (02) 8302 2325
swillhouse.com/venues/barons-restaurant/**

Barons is a grand dining room in the heart of Sydney's CBD, devoted to the art of old-world hospitality, the pleasure of prime-cuts and the theatre of proper service. Featuring a nose-to-tail menu of roasted and flame-grilled meats, Barons invites you to experience an intimate, candlelit escape, with an indulgent British feast and an encyclopaedia of wines waiting to be discovered.

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible.

CURTAINS JAZZ CLUB



HAPPY HOUR (5 - 7PM), EVERYDAY.

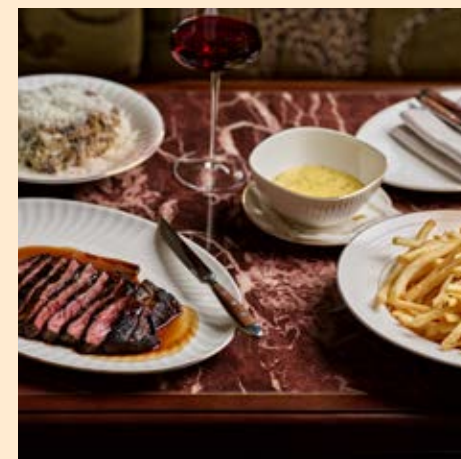
\$6 WINES, \$8 BEERS AND \$15 COCKTAILS.

**Transport House, 10 Phillip Street, Sydney
(02) 8302 2327 | swillhouse.com/venues/curtainsjazzclub/**

Curtains Jazz Club is a late-night bar inspired by the world's great jazz rooms: Ronnie Scott's in London, Smalls in New York, '70s psychedelic dens, and the record bars of old Tokyo. Every night, the stage comes alive with some of the city's best jazz musicians, while the cocktail list offers refined twists on timeless classics.

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible.

EPULA



\$55 PP

INCLUDES ANY HOR D'OEURVE, MAIN AND A SIDE OF FRIES FOR 5 & 5.30PM PRE-THEATRE BOOKINGS.

**No. 1 GPO Building Martin Place, Sydney
info@epula.com.au | epula.com.au**

Situated in Sydney's iconic GPO Building in Martin Place, Epula is not just a place to eat, it's a cultural experience. Blending timeless elegance and the rich culinary traditions of Europe with the vibrant, contemporary flair of Sydney, every visit feels like a special occasion – with a lavish menu that will satisfy any festivalgoer.

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible.

GILDAS



\$75 PP

EXPERIENCE A SELECTION OF DISHES WITH A 90-MINUTE BASQUE SHARE MENU FOR PRE-SCREENING BOOKINGS (5 – 5:45PM).

46-48 Albion Street, Surry Hills (02) 8275 8285 | gildas.com.au

Inspired by Lennox Hastie's time in the Basque Country, Gildas (the sister venue to Firedoor) is an homage to the original pintxo, created with three simple ingredients: a Guindilla pepper, an olive, and an anchovy – named in honour of the film *Gilda*, which screened at the San Sebastian Film Festival in 1946. The Gildas menu is an exploration of Spanish and Australian produce – a space to come together, share small plates, tell stories, and enjoy a sherry.

Accessibility: Step on entry.

HAY ST



10% OFF FOOD AND DRINK.

9/13 Hay Street, Haymarket (02) 8571 0622 | haystmarket.com.au

Hungry for something more? Discover global flavours, sip expertly crafted drinks, and soak up the energy of a buzzing, social atmosphere. With live entertainment every Friday and Saturday, plus the rhythm of Salsa Wednesdays, there's always something to enjoy, whether you're catching up with friends, planning a group outing, or exploring the city as an overnight guest. From casual bites to unforgettable nights, Hay St offers something for everyone, with something new happening every time you visit.

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible. Accessible bathroom facilities.

KING CLARENCE



\$80 PP

SFF MENU AVAILABLE FOR MINIMUM OF TWO GUESTS, INCLUDING ŌRA KING SALMON, WAGYU MB5+, MANGO PUDDING AND MORE.

171 Clarence Street, Sydney (02) 8456 7120 | bentleyrestaurantgroup.com.au/kingclarence

King Clarence is a bold, Asian-inspired restaurant led by award-winning Executive Chef Khanh Nguyen – combining flavours from China, Korea and Japan, with many dishes cooked over a custom BBQ grill. With sleek neon accents, mid-tempo electronic music and house DJs every Wednesday to Saturday, King Clarence is perfect for pre-or-post film dining. The wine list is just as eclectic, with a sweeping selection of rieslings, chardonnays, grower champagnes and 40 wines available by the glass.

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible.

MARY'S CIRCULAR QUAY / MARY'S NEWTOWN



\$20-40 PP

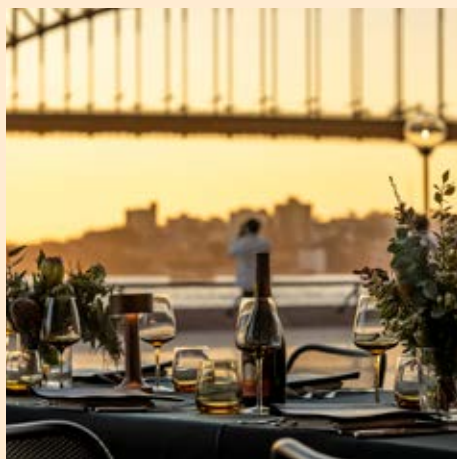
BURGERS, FRIED CHICKEN, HOT DOGS, FRIES, MASH AND GRAVY. PLANT-BASED ALTERNATIVES. BEER, WINE, COCKTAILS.

7 Reiby Place, Sydney | 6 Mary Street, Newtown marys.wtf/enquiries

Mary's started in a Newtown back street in 2013, built on loud music, a carefree spirit and delicious trash-food. Burgers, fried chicken, hot dogs and a solid plant-based menu – food made for eating with a drink in hand. Everything's made in-house with Aussie grass-fed beef, trashcan bacon, buttermilk-brined fried chook and a legendary mash & gravy. Mary's Circular Quay sits atop Mary's Underground, keeping great spaces for music, art and culture alive in Sydney. Come for an unpretentious meal with old friends or new strangers, made with heart – and know you're supporting the arts.

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible.

MIDDEN BY MARK OLIVE



10% OFF FOOD AND DRINK.

Western Broadwalk Sydney Opera House, Sydney 0468 012 364 | middensydney.com.au

Midden offers a beautiful outdoor dining experience with sweeping views of Sydney Harbour Bridge. Set against one of Australia's most iconic backdrops, it's a place where food, culture and landscape come together effortlessly. Guests can soak up the harbour's energy while enjoying a menu inspired by native Australian ingredients and First Nations storytelling. Whether it's a long lunch or an evening under the lights, Midden delivers an experience celebrating place and plate in equal measure.

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible.

NOMU BAR



\$40 PP

YOUR CHOICE OF A STARTER, MAIN AND TAP BEER OR HOUSE WINE FROM OUR SFF MENU.

40 Kensington Street, Chippendale info@vuhahospitality.com | nomubar.com.au

Nomu Bar is a Japanese-inspired cocktail bar and restaurant nestled along the glowing laneways of Kensington Street, bringing a taste of Tokyo's late-night energy to Chippendale. Just steps from Palace Cinemas, discover premium Japanese whiskies and spirits, expertly crafted cocktails and Japanese tap beer, all accompanying contemporary dishes designed to satisfy. Settle into our warm, intimate space and let us keep the drinks flowing and an eye on the clock, so you never miss the opening credits.

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible (outdoor seating only), low mobility access (indoor and outdoor), wheelchair accessible bathrooms unavailable.

RITZ BALCONY BAR



\$20-40 PP

HAPPY HOUR (4 – 6PM), MONDAY TO FRIDAY. \$12 COCKTAILS AND \$8 BEER, HOUSE WINE AND SELECT SPIRITS.

Level 1, Ritz Cinemas, 45 St. Pauls Street, Randwick (02) 8324 2500 | ritzcinemas.com.au

The Balcony Bar, upstairs at The Ritz, serves a wide range of cool drinks and hot snacks that go together like Bogart and Bacall. The outdoor balcony is the perfect spot to unwind with a cocktail and a bowl of hot chips while chatting all things movies.

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible.

THE MALAYA



FROM \$70 PP (2 PERSON MINIMUM)

90-MINUTE BANQUET EXPERIENCE FEATURING A SELECTION OF SIGNATURE DISHES WITH CHOICE OPTIONS FOR PRE-SCREENING BOOKINGS (5:30 – 6PM).

225 George Street, The Rocks, Sydney (02) 9279 1170 | themalaya.com.au

The Malaya is a Sydney dining institution, proudly family-run since 1963. Known for its bold and vibrant Nonya and Southeast Asian flavours, the menu features signature dishes alongside contemporary favourites. A welcoming spot to enjoy a relaxed and memorable meal before or after your Sydney Film Festival screening.

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible via elevator. Accessible bathroom facilities. Please inform the restaurant in advance.

ONLY

33%

**OF THE FESTIVAL'S
INCOME IS MADE UP
BY TICKET SALES**

Our donors and patrons power everything you see in the program - from bringing world-class filmmakers to Sydney and celebrating their extraordinary films with awards, to keeping tickets affordable and delivering free events, talks and parties.

Every dollar you give makes a difference. You'll see.

**DONATE
TODAY**



Donate
here



See our
patron
program

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The Shorts Programmer position has been supported by an Animal Logic Entertainment Fellowship with a view to developing the career of an emerging programmer.

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Volunteer & Operations Coordinator: Mac Walker
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Campaign Director: Adam Januszkiewicz
Social & Content Lead: Jemma Holloway

SFF 2026 SIZZLE REEL & TVC

Produced by: ARC
Edited by: Jack Charter
Finished by: Tina Giannoulis
Executive Producer, Commercial: Daniel Bradford-Fry
Managing Director: Joseph Perkins

TRAVEL AGENT

Travel Beyond: Carolyn Dean, Shannon Meredith

EVT LIMITED

Chief Executive Officer: Jane Hastings

STATE THEATRE

General Manager: Mark Harris
Theatre Manager: Jillian Belfield
Client Services and Finance Manager: Maddison Honeyman
Front of House and Marketing Manager: Beaver Garland
Food and Beverage Manager: Stuart Greene
Maintenance Manager: Chan Trieu
Technical Manager: Catherine de Vries
Production Coordinator: Narelle Smith

EVENT CINEMAS GEORGE STREET

General Manager, Film and Content: Claire Gandy
Film and Content Executive: Callie Hughan
General Managers: Katja Sinani, Lily Cook
Assistant General Manager: Bruno Scarpelli
Digital Technical Services Manager: Paul Greer
Conference & Event Sales Manager: Michael Sabater

HAYDEN ORPHEUM PICTURE PALACE

General Manager & Head of Programming: Alex Temesvari
Events Manager: Rachell Baker
Operations Manager: Sam Hanson
Administrative Manager: Jennifer Williams
Technical & Projection Supervisor: Oliver Halicki
Front of House Manager: Kane Lambkin
Marketing & Events Coordinator: Jordan Delany

DENDY CINEMAS

CEO: Sharon Strickland
Chief Operating Officer (COO): Leanne Brett
Head of Group Marketing: Natascha Rey-Barry
Head of National Operations & Programming: Kathryn Craig
Senior Content Strategist: Andrew Perkin
Senior Marketing & Partnerships Manager: Jess Bedford
National Technical Manager: Doug Munro
Content Operations: Nikki Jones
General Manager Newtown: Elliott Collins
Events Manager Newtown: Rowan Bruce

RITZ CINEMAS

Cinema Owners: Tamir Family
Programming Manager: Benji Tamir
Marketing Manager: Jaymes Durante
General Manager: Jamie Bugeja

PALACE CINEMAS

CEO: Benjamin Zeccola
Central General Manager: Benjamin Smith
Norton Street General Manager: Declan Kelly
Central Assistant Manager: Nicholas Brown, Sean Hinds
Norton Street Assistant Managers: Isabella Frankham-Sullivan, Oscar Morphew
Director of Programming: Paul Timos
Head of Marketing: Alex Moir
National Events Managers: Magenta McHalick, Mel Piu

STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

State Librarian: Dr Caroline Butler-Bowdon
Director, Experience & Engagement: Rani Hanlywood
Head of Public Programs: Lydia Tasker
Visitor Services Manager: Marcelo Flaksbard
Venues and Events Officers: Brooke Carrington, William Pulley
Events Officer: Callum McLean

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Head of Screen: Stuart Buchanan
Senior Producer: Melinda Dransfield
Production Manager: Emma Paterson
Account Manager: Margo Rai
Marketing Leads: Riley Charles, Nicole Russo
Senior Communications Manager: Julia Barnes
Communications Coordinator: Angelina Forstmann
General Manager Ticketing: Stephen Baillie
Ticketing Manager Sydney Opera House Presents: Ryan Court

ART GALLERY OF NSW

Curator, Film: Ruby Arrowsmith-Todd
Visitor Services Manager: Catherine Pye

THE CITY OF SYDNEY

Sydney Town Hall

AND THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES AND FILM PROVIDERS:

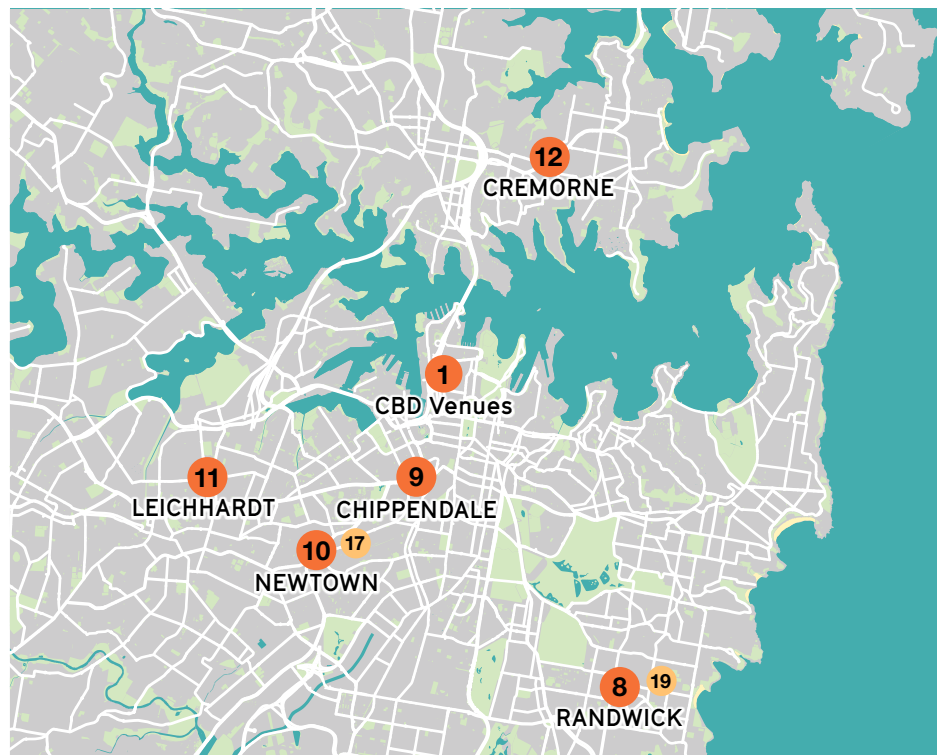
263 Reels Productions; A24; Accessible Arts; Adrian Pinto; Anoop Lokkur; Asian Shadows; Austrian Films; B Rated International; Banchi Hanuse; Bankside Films; Barunson E&A; Be For Films; Blue Finch Film Releasing; Bonsai Films; Brady Dowad; Bridget Ikin; Bus Stop Films; Canoe Film; Cao Guimarães; Carnaval Films; Casa de Cinema de Porto Alegre Ltda.; CAT&Docs; Cercamon; Charades; Charlotte Zhang; Chloe Kemp; Cian McCue; Cineteca di Bologna; Cinetic Media; Cultural Media; Cyna Strachan; David Cook; Devina McPherson; DreamLab Films; Edyll Ismail; Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI), New York; Eloise Lindeback; EO Gill; ESPN; Estate of Barbara Hammer; Everlane Moraes; Extra A Productions; Fabula Entertainment; Filmes do Serro LTDA; Films Boutique; Finecut Co. Ltd.; Gaumont; Georgia Noe; Gittes Cross Pictures; Good Thing Productions; Goodfellas; Guest House Productions; Hachemi Zertal; Hannah French; HB Films; Helium Pictures; Festival Contact; Henry Stone; Hi Gloss Entertainment; Hyun Lee; Icon Film Distribution; INDOX; Intramovies; Isuma Distribution International; J. Snow; Jack Weisman & Will Miller; Jeremy Lowrenčev; Jiayun Zhang; Jihan K; John Cardellino; Johnny Massahi; Jon DiNapoli; Jotz Productions; Judah Jackson; Juliano Dornelles; Julie Zhu; Kim Lloyd; Kino Lorber; Kismet Movies; K-Movie Entertainment; Kt Studiogenie; L.C Barreto, Produções Cinematográficas; Last Dreams Production; Les Films Pelleas; Libby Collins; Lights On; Lino Meireles; Louise Richard; Lucky Number; Liminalia; Lunar Films; Luxbox; M+; MAD Solutions; Madison Hislop-Stoessel; Madman Entertainment; Magnify; Mapa Filmes; Maslow Entertainment; Matt Wallace; Mediawan Rights; Migmar Pictures; Mister Smith Entertainment; MK2 Films; Monster Children; Monument Releasing; Morteza Atabaki; Mubi; Nash Edgerton; Netflix; Nicola Sercombe; Niu Studios; Odd Slice Films; Palace Films; Paradise City Sales; Paramount Pictures Australia; Pascale Ramonda; Patrik Syversen; Paula Arroio Sandoval; Pietra BrettKelly; Plainwater; Playtime; Pola Rader; Pyramide International; Rebekah Louisa Smith; Rediance; Renée Marie Petropoulos; Rialto Distribution; Richard A. Moore; Rob Jacobs; Salaud Morisset; Samantha Dutton; Sara Norman; Schuldenberg Films; Screen Inc.; Shark Island Productions; Sharmill Films; Simon Croker; Sony Pictures Releasing; Split Screen; Stan; Stranger Film Sales; Stranger Than Fiction; StudioCanal; Taiwan Film and Audiovisual Institute; Taqut Productions; Taskovski Films; The Festival Agency; The Film Collaborative; The Film Foundation; The Match Factory; The Party Film Sales; Tião; Together Films; Transmission Films; UCLA Film & Television Archive; Umbrella Entertainment; Universal Pictures International; Video Data Bank; Violeta Kreimer; Visit Films; VVS Films; Wovoo Inc.; Yoo Lee; Zeus Kontoyannis; Zipporah Films

RESTAURANT & BAR PARTNERS

Abode Bistro.Bar, Armorica Grande Brasserie, Barons Restaurant, Cafe Sydney, Curtains Bar, Epula, Gildas, Hay Street, King Clarence, Mary's Circular Quay & Mary's Newtown, Midden, Nomu Bar, The Malaya, Ritz Balcony Bar.

WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE AND THANK ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS, THE FILMMAKERS AND FESTIVAL GUESTS, DIRECTOR'S PATRONS, SUPPORTING CAST DONORS, FESTIVAL PARTNERS AND ALL OF THEIR TEAMS FOR THEIR HARD WORK IN HELPING US PRESENT THE FESTIVAL.

LOCATIONS



VENUES & BOX OFFICE HOURS

SFF box offices at all venues open one hour before the first screening and close 15 minutes after the last screening begins, unless otherwise stated. Cashless payments only.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1 STATE THEATRE
49 Market St, Sydney
Box office opens one hour prior to the screening on 3 June, and daily 9am – 9pm during the Festival</p> <p>2 EVENT CINEMAS GEORGE STREET
505-525 George St, Sydney</p> <p>3 THE HUB AT TOWN HALL
483 George St, Sydney – entry via Druitt St through the Lower Town Hall side entrance
<i>No box office onsite</i></p> <p>4 SFFTV – MARTIN PLACE
Between Pitt St and Castlereagh St, Sydney
Rush tickets box office between 11am – 2pm</p> <p>5 SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE
Playhouse – Bennelong Point, Sydney</p> <p>6 ART GALLERY OF NSW, DOMAIN THEATRE
Art Gallery Rd, The Domain, Sydney
Lower Level 3, Naala Nura Building</p> | <p>7 STATE LIBRARY OF NSW
Library Auditorium, Lower Ground Floor, Macquarie St Building, Sydney</p> <p>8 RITZ CINEMAS
45 St Pauls St, Randwick</p> <p>9 PALACE CENTRAL CINEMAS
Level 3, Central Park Mall, 28 Broadway, Chippendale</p> <p>10 DENDY CINEMAS NEWTOWN
261–263 King St, Newtown</p> <p>11 PALACE NORTON STREET
99 Norton St, Leichhardt</p> <p>12 HAYDEN ORPHEUM PICTURE PALACE
380 Military Rd, Cremorne</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

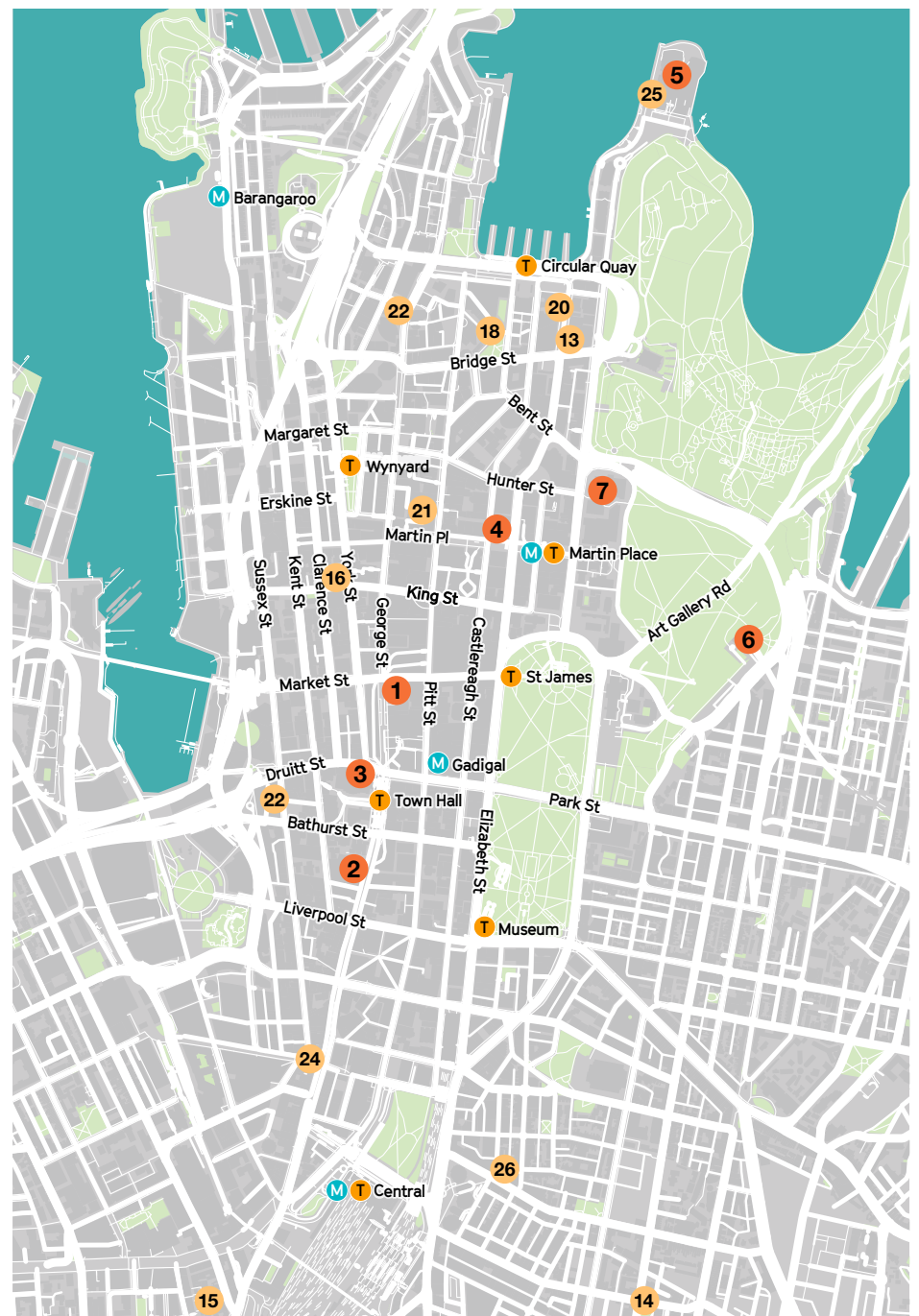
Take advantage of the public transport services located near all Festival venues — with bus routes, light rail, trains, and the metro all within walking distance of many of our locations.

Visit transportnsw.info or phone **131 500** for information, or use the SFF App for directions.

For bike parking refer to cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/cycling

For mobility parking refer to cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/lists-maps-inventories/mobility-parking

See you at the Festival!



RESTAURANTS AND BARS

For more information on our restaurant and bar partners, please see Drink & Dine Deals on page 54.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>13 BARONS RESTAURANT
52 Bridge St, Sydney</p> <p>14 ARMORICA GRANDE BRASSERIE
490 Crown St, Surry Hills</p> <p>15 NOMU BAR
40 Kensington St, Chippendale</p> <p>16 KING CLARENCE
171 Clarence St, Sydney</p> <p>17 MARY'S NEWTOWN
6 Mary St, Newtown</p> <p>18 MARY'S CIRCULAR QUAY
7 Reiby Place, Sydney</p> <p>19 RITZ BALCONY BAR
Level 1, Ritz Cinemas, 45 St. Pauls Street, Randwick</p> | <p>20 CURTAINS JAZZ CLUB
Transport House, 10 Phillip St, Sydney</p> <p>21 EPULA
No. 1 GPO Building Martin Place, Sydney</p> <p>22 THE MALAYA
225 George St, The Rocks, Sydney</p> <p>23 ABODE BISTRO. BAR
PARKROYAL Darling Harbour, 150 Day St, Sydney</p> <p>24 HAY ST
9/13 Hay St, Haymarket</p> <p>25 MIDDEN BY MARK OLIVE
Western Broadwalk Sydney Opera House, Sydney</p> <p>26 GILDAS
46-48 Albion St, Surry Hills</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

TICKET PRICING

SINGLE TICKETS (excludes special events)

ADULT _____	\$27.50
CONCESSION/SENIORS* _____	\$23.00
YOUTH (17 and under) _____	\$20.00
GROUP OF 10+ _____	\$19.90

FLEXIPASSES SAVE YOU UP TO \$330!

- Purchase in bundles of 10, 20 or 30 tickets.
- Redeem online against SFF sessions (some exclusions apply, see sff.org.au/flexipass).
- Buy a subscription or Flexipass to SFF 2026 by 17 May and you'll go into the draw to win a cinematic trip to Canada courtesy of Air Canada (terms and conditions apply).
- Share with friends – redeem up to four tickets per session.

FLEXIPASS 10 (SAVE \$76) _____	\$199
FLEXIPASS 20 (SAVE \$175) _____	\$375
FLEXIPASS 30 (SAVE \$330) _____	\$495
YOUTH PASS 6 (15-24 YEARS OLD) (SAVE \$69) _____	\$96

OPENING & CLOSING NIGHT

OPENING NIGHT (FILM & PARTY) _____	\$180
OPENING NIGHT (FILM ONLY) _____	\$60/\$55 CONC*
CLOSING NIGHT _____	\$50/\$45 CONC*

* Concessions available to full-time students, pensioners, healthcare card holders, unemployed people and seniors. Concession cards must be shown upon admission.

For full ticket information visit [SFF.org.au/tickets](https://sff.org.au/tickets)

BOOK TICKETS

SFF.ORG.AU
SFF 2026 APP
1300 733 733

PRE-FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE HOURS
UNTIL 2 JUNE:
CALL 9AM-6PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY
10AM-3PM ON SATURDAYS

DURING THE FESTIVAL
FROM 3-14 JUNE:
CALL 9AM-6.30PM DAILY
SEE LOCATIONS (PAGE 58) FOR IN-PERSON BOX
OFFICE HOURS

AGE RESTRICTIONS

No one under 18 is admitted to 18+ films. Children under 15, including babies, will only be admitted to 15+ films with a parent or guardian. Most films in the Family section are classified for all ages, but please check age recommendations for each film.

CONTENT WARNING

Films rated 18+ may contain elements such as sex scenes, drug use, suicide, aggressive themes, abuse and violent acts including sexual assault that are strong in impact. If you need help, 24/7 assistance is available from:

LIFELINE **13 11 14 | [Lifeline.org.au](https://lifeline.org.au)**

BEYOND BLUE **1300 224 636 | [Beyondblue.org.au](https://beyondblue.org.au)**

SUICIDE CALL BACK SERVICE **1300 659 467 | [Suicidecallbackservice.org.au](https://suicidecallbackservice.org.au)**

MENSLINE AUSTRALIA **1300 789 978 | [Mensline.org.au](https://mensline.org.au)**

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Sydney Film Festival endeavours to make its events welcoming and inclusive for all. For expanded details on accessibility and inclusion practices and additional venue information, including equipment, bathroom facilities and parking, visit sff.org.au/access or SMS chat at 0480 808 900. Sessions are also browsable by access requirements on our website.

COMPANION CARDS



SFF proudly accepts Companion Cards for all sessions. For guests who require the assistance of a companion or carer, a second ticket is issued at no cost to the Companion Card holder. To book, contact **1300 733 733** or email tickets@sff.org.au. To access your Companion Card tickets online, use promo code **COMPANION26**.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS



Sydney Film Festival's venues are all wheelchair accessible. Please get in touch with our box office at **1300 733 733** or tickets@sff.org.au to book wheelchair accessible seating.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING



All venues have an induction hearing loop system or hearing aid transmitters. See the auditorium-specific information on our website for details.

ASSISTANCE ANIMALS



Assistance animals are welcome at all Festival events and venues. Bookings are essential as we must advise the venue in advance: call **1300 733 733** or email tickets@sff.org.au

AUSLAN INTERPRETED Q&AS AND INTRODUCTIONS



Auslan interpreting is for audiences who use Australian Sign Language (Auslan). The SFF website will contain up to date information on events that include Auslan.

OPEN CAPTIONS



Open Captions display all dialogue and describe sounds as text on the screen. The SFF website will contain up-to-date information on screenings with open captions available.

CLOSED CAPTIONS



Closed Captions display all dialogue and describe sounds as text on a personal device with a high-contrast display and privacy screen. The SFF website will contain up-to-date information on screenings with closed captions available.

ASSISTANCE AT THE VENUE

If you require assistance or have questions about accessibility, our friendly accessibility volunteers will be happy to help. They'll be at each cinema wearing purple vests – or head to the SFF Box Office on arrival and we will organise for a volunteer or venue staff to assist you.

SCREENABILITY



The Screenability program is designed to boost the participation of under-represented groups in the screen industry. Sydney Film Festival is proud to present films with **Auslan-interpreted** filmmaker introductions and Q&As, **Open or Closed Captioning** and **Audio Description**. See page 42 for full details. Check our website for updates on more films screening with captioning and/or audio description.

RESTAURANT PARTNERS

Most of the venues for the Restaurant Partner deals are fully accessible. For information on each venue visit sff.org.au/access or consult **page 54**.

POLICIES

For full terms and conditions, and all our ticket purchase policies, visit sff.org.au.

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CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE

VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE											OPENING NIGHT – SILENCED 7:00 PM P.4, P.11 ❖				
DNT 1											BARBARA FOREVER 6:15 PM P.48	THE BLOOD COUNTESS 8:30 PM P.21			
DNT 2											THE CURRENTS 6:30 PM P.40	ON THE ROAD 8:45 PM P.25			
DNT 3											EVERYBODY TO KENMU... 6:00 PM P.30	KNIFE: THE ATTEMPTED... 8:15 PM P.17			
EVENT 3											BEHIND THE PALM TREES 6:15 PM P.21	GHOST IN THE CELL + 8:30 PM P.34			
EVENT 9											WHISPERS IN THE WOODS + 6:30 PM P.33				
HOC 5											THE WIZARD OF THE KREMLIN 6:30 PM P.27				
PALC 1											YAM DAABO 6:30 PM P.43				
PNORT 3											HEYSEL 85 6:30 PM P.40				
RITZ 5											STRAWBERRIES 6:15 PM P.27	MILE END KICKS + 8:20 PM P.25			
AGNSW												BLACK GOD, WHITE DEVIL 7:30 PM P.46			

THURSDAY 4 JUNE

VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		THE CYCLE OF LOVE 10:00 AM P.29 ☀			THEYDREAM 12:45 PM P.33 ☀		THE MUTATION 3:15 PM P.25 ☀			NO GOOD MEN 6:00 PM P.8 🌙		COLONY 8:30 PM P.16 🌙			
DNT 1											SUMMER 2000: THE X-CETRA... 6:00 PM P.32	MADDIE'S SECRET + 8:30 PM P.38			
DNT 2											RETREAT + 6:15 PM P.42	THE ARAB 8:45 PM P.21			
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EVENT 5											ROSE OF NEVADA 6:15 PM P.26				
EVENT 9											PROPER LOVED UP... 6:30 PM P.13	ANIMOL + 8:30 PM P.20			
HOC 2											YELLOW LETTERS 6:00 PM P.19				
HOC 5											THE AMERICAN DREAM 6:15 PM P.20				
PALC 1											LA BELLE ANNÉE + 6:00 PM P.41	AANIKOBIJIGAN... 8:40 PM P.12			
PNORT 3											THE LONELIEST MAN... 6:15 PM P.24				
RITZ 1											I WANT YOUR SEX 6:30 PM P.23				
SOH											THE FOX + 6:00 PM P.22	SACCHARINE 8:45 PM P.26			

FRIDAY 5 JUNE

VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		LOST LAND 10:00 AM P.24 ☀			NO GOOD MEN 12:30 PM P.8 ☀		SUNDAYS + 3:00 PM P.18 ☀				ROSE 6:15 PM P.18 🌙		THE INVITE 8:30 PM P.8 🌙		
DNT 1											THEYDREAM 6:00 PM P.33	ERUPCJA + 8:20 PM P.22			
DNT 2											A FOX UNDER A PI... 6:30 PM P.30	SORELLA DI CLAUSURA 8:30 PM P.41			
DNT 3											AT THE PLACE OF GHOSTS + 6:15 PM P.12	100 SUNSET 8:15 PM P.20			
EVENT 3											STEAL THIS STORY... 6:00 PM P.32	STRANGE RIVER + 8:20 PM P.27			
EVENT 4											COLONY 6:30 PM P.16				
EVENT 5											THE BLOOD COUNTESS 6:15 PM P.21				
EVENT 9											THE CYCLE OF LOVE 6:30 PM P.29	IMPOSTERS + 8:45 PM P.34			
HOC 4											LATE FAME 6:15 PM P.24				
PALC 1											9 TEMPLES TO HEAVEN 6:00 PM P.20	TYCOON + 8:40 PM P.38			
PNORT 3											THE KIDNAPPING OF ARA... 6:15 PM P.40				
RITZ 1											GAIL DAUGHTRY AND... 6:30 PM P.23				
RITZ 5											ISABEL 6:15 PM P.24	ROSEBUSH PRUNING 8:30 PM P.26			
SLNSW											ONCE UPON A TIME IN H... 6:15 PM P.31				
SOH											WHISTLE 6:15 PM P.11	SILENT FRIEND 8:30 PM P.18			

- OFFICIAL COMPETITION
- SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
- FEATURES
- DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA
- INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES
- OTHER

STATE

State Theatre

EVENT

Event Cinemas George St

DNT

Dendy Newtown

PALC

Palace Central

PNORT

Palace Norton Street

HOC

Hayden Orpheum Cremorne

RITZ

Ritz Cinemas Randwick

SLNSW

The State Library of NSW

AGNSW

Art Gallery of NSW

SOH

Sydney Opera House

■ Screenability

❖ Flexipass not accepted

👤 Family Fun

+ Short included

☀ Daytime Subscribers

🌙 Evening Subscribers

SATURDAY 6 JUNE

VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		HANGING BY A... 9:30 AM P.30		THE INVITE 11:15 AM P.8		PRESSURE 1:45 PM P.17		KNIFE: THE ATTEMPTED... 4:15 PM P.17		LEVITICUS 6:30 PM P.8		TEENAGE SEX AND DEATH... 8:45 PM P.18			
DNT 1						CLOSURE 1:30 PM P.29		NO GOOD MEN 3:45 PM P.8		BROKEN ENGLISH 6:20 PM P.36		THE BEST SUMMER 8:30 PM P.36			
DNT 2							TIME AND TIDE 1:15 PM P.11		LOST LAND 3:40 PM P.24		WRONG HUSBAND + 6:00 PM P.13		JOYBUBBLES + 8:15 PM P.42		
DNT 3							JULIAN 2:00 PM P.24		PROPER LOVED UP... 4:15 PM P.13		THE MUTATION 6:15 PM P.25		THE PERIL AT PINCE POINT + 8:45 PM P.35		
EVENT 3						THE LAST WHALE SL... 1:30 PM P.37		BARBARA FOREVER 3:30 PM P.48		MY FATHER AND QADDAFI 5:45 PM P.31		MORTE CUCINA 8:15 PM P.25			
EVENT 4										ERUPCJA + 6:30 PM P.22		GAIL DAUGHTRY AND... 8:30 PM P.23			
EVENT 5												A SAD AND BEAUTIFUL WORLD 8:00 PM P.26			
EVENT 9									PEOPLE AND MEAT 3:45 PM P.26		DON'T TELL MOTHER 6:15 PM P.21		MOCKBUSTER 8:40 PM P.10		
HOC 4									THE FOX + 5:15 PM P.22						
HOC 5							QUEEN AT SEA 3:00 PM P.26			BEHIND THE PALM TREES 5:45 PM P.21					
PALC 1						DRY LEAF 1:00 PM P.38		SOUMSOUM, THE NIGHT OF TH... + 4:30 PM P.26		THE KIDNAPPING OF A... 7:00 PM P.40					
PNORT 3								TENOR: MY NAME IS PATI 4:00 PM P.36		HOLD ONTO ME 6:15 PM P.40					
RITZ 1										SILENCED 6:15 PM P.6, P.11					
RITZ 3										SUNDAYS + 6:30 PM P.18					
RITZ 5								GIVE ME THE BALL! 3:45 PM P.30		YESTERDAY ISLAND 6:00 PM P.27		THE GOOD BOY 8:15 PM P.23			
AGNSW		MODEL 10:15 AM P.44			BRAZILIAN SHORTS 1:00 PM P.47		MARC BY SOFIA 3:00 PM P.44								
SLNSW				THE ARCH 12:00 PM P.43		YUMBURRA 2:00 PM P.11		THE TALE OF SILYAN 4:15 PM P.33		I SEE BUILDINGS FALL LIK... 6:00 PM P.23					
SOH				WHISPERS IN THE WOODS + 12:00 PM P.33		THE SAMURAI AND THE PRISONER 2:30 PM P.18			ROSE 5:45 PM P.18			LATE FAME 8:30 PM P.24			

SUNDAY 7 JUNE

VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		WHISTLE 9:30 AM P.11		LEVITICUS 11:30 AM P.8		SILENT FRIEND 1:45 PM P.18		BOSS CAT 5:00 PM P.21		GENTLE MONSTER 7:30 PM P.7					
DNT 1						THE TALE OF SILYAN 2:00 PM P.33		STRANGE RIVER + 3:45 PM P.27		ISABEL 6:30 PM P.24		MORTE CUCINA 8:40 PM P.25			
DNT 2						YOU LOOK FINE + 2:15 PM P.42		MEMORY OF PRINCES... + 4:30 PM P.24		AMADOU & MARIAM... 6:45 PM P.36					
DNT 3						HOLD ONTO ME 1:15 PM P.40		PAST FUTURE... 3:20 PM P.32		YUMBURRA 5:00 PM P.11		MOCKBUSTER 7:15 PM P.10		THE LAND THAT TIME... 9:30 PM P.10	
EVENT 3					THE DESERT CHILD 1:30 PM P.37		PHENOMENA 3:30 PM P.10		THEYDREAM 5:45 PM P.33		NEVER AFTER DARK + 8:30 PM P.35				
EVENT 5							THE KILLINGS AT PARRISH... 3:45 PM P.27		GIVE ME THE BALL! 6:00 PM P.30		FILIPINANA 8:10 PM P.22				
EVENT 11						CROCODILE 1:45 PM P.29		32 METERS 4:00 PM P.28		100 SUNSET 6:10 PM P.20		FLIES 8:15 PM P.22			
HOC 5							HEN 2:30 PM P.23		SUNDAYS + 4:30 PM P.18		MAMA 7:20 PM P.24				
PALC 1						POWWOW PEOPLE 2:15 PM P.13		BARBARA HAMMER: WAS... 4:15 PM P.48		JOY BOY: A TRIBUTE T... + 6:20 PM P.38					
PNORT 3							REMAKE 4:00 PM P.32		LA BELLE ANNÉE + 6:30 PM P.41						
RITZ 1						THE VALLEY 2:00 PM P.19			THE FOX + 6:15 PM P.22						
RITZ 3							THE WIZARD OF THE KREMLIN 3:00 PM P.27		ANIMOL + 6:10 PM P.20						
RITZ 5						EVERYTIME 1:45 PM P.22		DON'T TELL MOTHER 4:10 PM P.21		TIME AND WATER 6:30 PM P.33					
AGNSW		THE HOUR AND TURN OF A... 10:15 AM P.46		SAO PAULO, INCORPORATED 12:30 PM P.46		NOTEBOOK ON CITE... 3:00 PM P.44									
SLNSW				NEWPORT & THE GREAT... 12:00 PM P.36		THE AI DOC: OR HOW I... 2:00 PM P.28		PALESTINE 36 4:10 PM P.25		WE ARE ALL STRANGERS 6:30 PM P.27					
SOH				VIVE L'AMOUR 12:00 PM P.43		JACK JOHNSON... 2:45 PM P.36		FIRST LIGHT 4:45 PM P.22				THE BEST SUMMER 8:00 PM P.36			

MONDAY 8 JUNE - PUBLIC HOLIDAY

VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		GENTLE MONSTER 9:30 AM P.7		RAYS AND SHADOWS 12:15 PM P.17				DAO 4:00 PM P.6		SHAME AND MONEY 8:00 PM P.9					
DNT 1						A CHILD OF MY OWN 2:00 PM P.29		THE MAN I LOVE 4:00 PM P.17		NUISANCE BEAR 6:00 PM P.31					
DNT 2						MASTER 1:45 PM P.24		STEAL THIS STORY, PLEASE! 4:15 PM P.32		NITRATE KISSES + 6:20 PM P.49					
DNT 3						EUREKA 2:15 PM P.43				DAWNING + 6:30 PM P.34					
EVENT 3						MOUSE + 2:00 PM P.25		THE CURRENTS 4:45 PM P.40		AT THE PLACE OF GHOSTS + 7:15 PM P.12					
EVENT 9								BROKEN ENGLISH 4:00 PM P.36		GAIL DAUGHTRY AND... 6:15 PM P.23					
EVENT 11						CEREMONY 2:30 PM P.12		TO HOLD A MOUNTAIN 4:30 PM P.33		THE ARAB 7:00 PM P.21					
HOC 5						BOSS CAT 2:00 PM P.21		YESTERDAY ISLAND 4:30 PM P.27							
PALC 1						BABY JACKFRUIT BABY GU... 1:45 PM P.28		CHRONOVISOR 4:00 PM P.38		MY FATHER AND QADDAFI 6:15 PM P.31					
PNORT 3							PALESTINE 36 4:00 PM P.25		NEWPORT & THE GREAT... 6:30 PM P.36						
RITZ 1										LEVITICUS 6:45 PM P.8					
RITZ 5							HE DIED WITH A FELAFEL IN HIS... 2:00 PM P.43		I SEE BUILDINGS FALL LIKE... 4:30 PM P.23						
AGNSW		PRÊT-À-PORTER 10:15 AM P.45		LUCIO FLAVIO: THE PASSENGER... 12:50 PM P.46		CINEMA, ASPIRINS AND... 3:15 PM P.46									
SLNSW				QUEEN AT SEA 12:00 PM P.26		HEN 2:30 PM P.23		TENOR: MY NAME IS PATI 4:30 PM P.36							

TUESDAY 9 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		SHAME AND MONEY 9:45 AM		☀ P.9	DAO 12:20 PM		☀ P.6		HEN 4:10 PM	☀ P.23		THE MAN I LOVE 6:15 PM	☾ P.17	SHEEP IN THE BOX 8:20 PM	☾ P.9
DNT 1											SACCHARINE 6:10 PM			FIRST LIGHT 8:45 PM	P.22
DNT 2												YOU LOOK FINE + 6:30 PM	■ P.42		
DNT 3											LANDMARKS 6:00 PM	P.31		THE AI DOC: OR HOW I... 8:30 PM	P.28
EVENT 3											ISABEL 6:00 PM	P.24		THE PERIL AT PINCE POINT + 8:30 PM	P.35
EVENT 4													EL SETT 8:00 PM		P.22
EVENT 5													THE BEST SUMMER 7:00 PM		P.36
EVENT 9												AMERICAN DOCTOR 6:30 PM			P.28
EVENT 11													AANKOBIJIGAN 6:45 PM		P.12
HOC 5													THE GOOD BOY 6:30 PM		P.23
PALC 1												PHENOMENA 6:00 PM	P.10	HEART OF LIGHT - ELEVEN SONGS FOR FIJI 8:10 PM	P.23
PNORT 3													PRESSURE 6:15 PM		P.17
RITZ 3													TRACES 6:15 PM		P.33
RITZ 5													DEAD MAN'S WIRE 6:30 PM		P.16

WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		QUEEN AT SEA 9:30 AM	☀ P.26		SHEEP IN THE BOX 12:00 PM	☀ P.9		ÁRRU + 3:00 PM	☀ P.12, P.16		PARALLEL TALES 6:00 PM	☾ P.9		THE BIRTHDAY PARTY 8:50 PM	☾ P.16
DNT 1														ONCE UPON A TIME IN H... 6:30 PM	P.31
DNT 2														JOYBUBBLES + 6:15 PM	■ P.42
DNT 3											PEOPLE AND MEAT 6:00 PM	P.26		BIRDS OF WAR + 8:15 PM	P.29
EVENT 3											IF PIGEONS TURNED TO GOLD 6:00 PM			NEVER AFTER DARK + 8:30 PM	P.35
EVENT 5														BODY BLOW 6:15 PM	P.21
EVENT 9														RODEO DREAMS 6:30 PM	P.11
EVENT 11														NIKA & MADISON 6:15 PM	P.12
HOC 5														ROSE OF NEVADA 6:30 PM	P.26
PALC 1														BARBARA HAMMER: A... 6:15 PM	P.43
PNORT 3														NUISANCE BEAR 6:15 PM	P.31
RITZ 3														JULIAN 6:30 PM	P.24
RITZ 5														EVERYBODY TO KENMUR... 6:15 PM	P.30
AGNSW														THE AMERICAN DREAM 8:15 PM	P.20
														FRENCH GIRLS 7:15 PM	P.22, P.44

THURSDAY 11 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		THE SEOUL GUARDIANS 9:30 AM	☀ P.32		PARALLEL TALES 11:25 PM	☀ P.9		THE VALLEY 2:10 PM	☀ P.19		BEN'MANA 6:00 PM	☾ P.6		YELLOW LETTERS 8:30 PM	☾ P.19
DNT 1														GIVE ME THE BALL! 6:15 PM	P.30
DNT 2														CEREMONY 6:30 PM	P.12
DNT 3														THE GOOD BOY 6:00 PM	P.23
EVENT 3														FILIPINANA 8:15 PM	P.22
EVENT 5														BLACK RABBIT, WHITE RABBIT 6:00 PM	P.21
EVENT 9														DAWNING + 8:45 PM	P.34
EVENT 11														MARC BY SOFIA 6:30 PM	P.44
HOC 2														THE HISTORY OF CONCRETE 8:30 PM	P.30
HOC 5														SUKUNDIMI WALKS BEFOR... 6:00 PM	P.11
PALC 1														ROSEBUSH PRUNING 8:15 PM	P.26
PNORT 3														JUST LOOK UP 6:15 PM	P.31
RITZ 1														SOUMSOUM, THE NIGHT OF ... + 8:30 PM	P.26
RITZ 5														ÁRRU + 6:15 PM	P.12, P.16
														DEAD MAN'S WIRE 6:30 PM	P.16
														RIPPLES IN THE MIST 6:00 PM	P.26
														JOY BOY: A TRIBUTE TO ... + 8:40 PM	P.38
														SHAME AND MONEY 6:15 PM	P.9
														THE INVITE 6:30 PM	P.8
														SILENT FRIEND 8:30 PM	P.18

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICIAL COMPETITION SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS FEATURES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES OTHER 	STATE State Theatre EVENT Event Cinemas George St	DNT Dendy Newtown PALC Palace Central	PNORT Palace Norton Street HOC Hayden Orpheum Cremorne	RITZ Ritz Cinemas Randwick SLNSW The State Library of NSW	AGNSW Art Gallery of NSW SOH Sydney Opera House
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screenability Flexipass not accepted Family Fun Short included Daytime Subscribers Evening Subscribers 						

FRIDAY 12 JUNE

VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		BEN'IMANA 9:45 AM			THE WORLD OF LOVE 12:15 PM			DEAD MAN'S WIRE 3:00 PM		FATHERLAND 6:00 PM		MINOTAUR 8:00 PM			
DNT 1											THE HISTORY OF CONCRETE 6:15 PM		TEENAGE SEX AND DEATH A... 8:30 PM		
DNT 2											HISTORY LESSONS + 6:30 PM		IMPOSTERS + 8:45 PM		
DNT 3										RODEO DREAMS 6:00 PM		THE SEOUL GUARDIANS 8:15 PM			
EVENT 3										REPLICA 6:00 PM		MILE END KICKS + 8:30 PM			
EVENT 4											FRENCH GIRLS 6:30 PM				
EVENT 9											NUISANCE BEAR 6:15 PM				
EVENT 11											PAST FUTURE CON... 6:00 PM		WE ARE ALL STRANGERS 7:45 PM		
HOC 4													THE DEATH OF ROBIN HOOD 8:00 PM		
HOC 5											ROSEBUSH PRUNING 6:00 PM				
PALC 1											MADDIE'S SECRET + 6:00 PM		SORELLA DI CLAUSURA 8:30 PM		
PNORT 3											THE CYCLE OF LOVE 6:15 PM				
RITZ 1											PARALLEL TALES 6:00 PM				
RITZ 3											RAYS AND SHADOWS 6:15 PM				
RITZ 5											FLIES 6:30 PM		YELLOW LETTERS 8:45 PM		
SLNSW											KNIFE: THE ATTEMPTED M... 6:15 PM				

SATURDAY 13 JUNE

VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		FATHERLAND 9:30 AM		MINOTAUR 11:15 AM		THE SAMURAI AND THE PRISONER 2:00 PM				THE DREAMED ADVENTURE 5:00 PM		FJORD 8:15 PM			
DNT 1				TO HOLD A MOUNTAIN 12:00 PM		AMERICAN DOCTOR 2:10 PM		BEN'IMANA 4:15 PM			PALESTINE 36 6:45 PM			BODY BLOW 9:15 PM	
DNT 2					RETREAT + 1:15 PM		IF PIGEONS TURNED TO GOLD 3:45 PM				HE DIED WITH A FELAFEL... 6:15 PM				
DNT 3				THE LAST WHALE SI... 12:00 PM		SUKUNDIMI WALKS BEFOR... 2:00 PM		BABY JACKFRUIT BABY G... 4:20 PM		EVERYTIME 6:30 PM			GHOST IN THE CELL + 9:00 PM		
EVENT 3				REMAKE 12:45 PM		HEART OF LIGHT - ELEVEN SONGS FOR FIJI 3:15 PM				THE WORLD OF LOVE 6:30 PM					
EVENT 4						DENDY AWARDS 2:30 PM				EL SETT 5:15 PM					
EVENT 5						LOMU 4:00 PM				THE SEOUL GUARDIANS 6:45 PM			I WANT YOUR SEX 8:45 PM		
EVENT 9										TIME AND WATER 6:00 PM					
EVENT 11						WRONG HUSBAND + 2:15 PM		DAUGHTERS OF THE FO... 4:45 PM		AMADOU & MARIAM... 6:45 PM					
HOC 4						RAYS AND SHADOWS 2:00 PM				PRESSURE 6:00 PM					
HOC 5						QUEEN KELLY 3:15 PM				THE BIRTHDAY PARTY 5:30 PM					
PALC 1						CHRONOVISOR 2:00 PM		JOYBUBBLES + 4:00 PM		STRAWBERRIES 6:00 PM			BLACK RABBIT, WHITE RABBIT 8:15 PM		
PNORT 3						SILENCED 2:00 PM		BROKEN ENGLISH 4:30 PM		WHISPERS IN THE WOODS + 6:30 PM					
RITZ 1						MARC BY SOFIA 2:15 PM		THE DEATH OF ROBIN HOOD 4:15 PM			THE HISTORY OF CONCRETE 6:50 PM				
RITZ 3											HEYSEL 85 7:15 PM				
RITZ 5						MOUSE + 2:00 PM		ARRU + 4:45 PM			ERUPCJA + 7:00 PM				
AGNSW		USELESS 10:15 AM		MAN MARKED FOR DEATH... 12:15 PM		CENTRAL STATION 2:45 PM									
SLNSW			DAO 10:30 AM			THE LONELIEST MAN... 2:00 PM		A SAD AND BEAUTIFUL WORLD 4:00 PM			THE PIANO TUNER 6:30 PM				

SUNDAY 14 JUNE

VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		THE DREAMED ADVENTURE 9:30 AM			FJORD 12:45 PM				TO BE ANNOUNCED			CLOSING NIGHT 7:00 PM			
DNT 1						FRENCH GIRLS + 1:45 PM		JUST LOOK UP 4:30 PM			MILE END KICKS + 6:30 PM				
DNT 2						REPLICA 2:15 PM		TRACES 4:45 PM			POWWOW PEOPLE 6:40 PM		CROCODILE 8:35 PM		
DNT 3						32 METERS 2:00 PM		THE WORLD OF LOVE 4:00 PM			NEWPORT & THE GREAT... 6:45 PM		MADDIE'S SECRET + 8:45 PM		
EVENT 3					SUMMER 2000: THE X-CETRA... 1:45 PM		MEMORY OF PRINCES... + 4:15 PM			A FOX UNDER A PL... 6:15 PM			MUM, I'M ALIEN PREGNAN... + 8:00 PM		
EVENT 5							DENDY AWARDS 3:30 PM			HANGING BY A WIRE 6:00 PM			SHEEP IN THE BOX 7:45 PM		
EVENT 9						A CHILD OF MY OWN 2:00 PM		BIRDS OF WAR + 4:00 PM							
EVENT 11							9 TEMPLES TO HEAVEN 3:00 PM			LANDMARKS 5:45 PM			CLOSURE 8:15 PM		
HOC 4							PARALLEL TALES 3:00 PM				GENTLE MONSTER 5:45 PM				
HOC 5								THE MAN I LOVE 3:30 PM							
PALC 1					PAST FUTURE... 12:45 PM		RIPPLES IN THE MIST 2:30 PM			NIKA & MADISON 5:15 PM			DRY LEAF 7:00 PM		
PNORT 3							THE PIANO TUNER 2:15 PM			THE TALE OF SILYAN 4:30 PM		ROSE 6:15 PM			
RITZ 1								FATHERLAND 3:50 PM			MINOTAUR 5:45 PM			TEENAGE SEX AND DEATH AT... 8:30 PM	
RITZ 5				THE DESERT CHILD 12:00 PM		KNIFE: THE ATTEMPTED... 2:00 PM		LOMU 4:15 PM			MAMA 6:45 PM				
AGNSW		JANE B. PAR AGNÈS V. 10:15 AM			THE SECOND MOTHER 12:30 PM		NEON BULL 2:45 PM								
SLNSW				EUREKA 11:15 AM				JACK JOHNSON... 3:30 PM							

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June Murphy
Jan O'Reilly
Jonathan Page
Trevor Parkin
Janette Parkinson
Mary Pollard
Alex-Oonagh Redmond
Aden Ridgeway
Dr Shefali Rovik
Vincent Sheehan
Nicola Shelley
Christina Smith
David Smith
Lucy Sorentino
Anthony Spratt
David and Pauline Stanton
Liz Stevens
Suzie Suttor
Peter Taylor
Eden Tollis
Ian and Sharon Tollis
Christine Tritton
Ross Tzannes AM
Kay Vernon
Andrew Vincent
Liz Watts
Bicky Winkler
Julian Wood
Jane Wynter
Sue Zeckendorf
Anonymous (15)

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EVERY
NIGHT**

**THE WORLD
ON A
SCREEN**

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OF YOUR
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YOU'LL
REMEMBER**

